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Monday April 1 1996

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Knight of natural history



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Hopes on beef ban dashed

New package goes to EU ministers

John Palmer in Brussels, Owen Bowcott and Michael White

THE Government's hopes of an immediate end to the European Union's world-wide ban on British beef exports collapsed last night as Whitehall officials worked to complete a package of anti-BSE measures designed to staunch haemorrhaging public confidence in the industry.

Even if the revised proposals being submitted to an emergency meeting of EU farm ministers in Luxembourg today are judged sufficiently credible to reassure Europe's beef consumers, the ban imposed last week will not be lifted straight away, senior EU officials signalled yesterday.

With every link in the beef industry suffering enormous strain from the revelation that BSE in cattle may, after all, be linked to Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, the Agriculture Minister, Douglas Hogg, is desperate to do whatever Europe's scientists — and public opinion — require to stem the crisis.

Cadburys confirmed that its range of mini-eggs, Strothers and Curly Wurly bars, all of which contain gelatin from cattle hides, could be affected by the EU ban. However, disenchanted with British beef may be bottoming out, the Safeway supermarket chain suggested, as cut-price top quality meat had sold out by lunchtime at one London

store. "We will have to wait and see, but people are returning tentatively," a spokesman said.

Glasgow, however, said that beef products would disappear from all of the city's 260 schools and adult training centres from today, after pressure from parents and teachers. "Beef dishes, even as a choice, were not selling," a spokesman said.

After talks in Brussels on Friday, the agriculture commissioner, Franz Fischler, warned Mr Hogg that the Government still had not gone far enough to assure everyone about the safety of the food chain, nor to satisfy EU concerns about the rigour with which existing slaughterhouse controls are being enforced in Britain.

Rightwing Tory MPs, who believe Europe's own controls are inferior to Britain's, were not appeased when Britain's two EU commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan and Neil Kinnock, said in television interviews that lifting the ban would be a matter of weeks, not days — possibly within the agreed six week review period, Mr Kinnock suggested.

"Everybody has accepted that what one is now talking about is not just measures that are scientifically necessary but measures to restore public confidence," Sir Leon conceded on BBC's Breakfast with Frost.

Speaking on LWT's Cross-talk, Mr Kinnock confirmed what British ministers insist has always been the case in EU finances, that the promised support from Brussels for

Pandemonium breaks out as deadline for British travel papers expires



Two among thousands of Hong Kong residents who queued at Immigration Tower to beat yesterday's midnight deadline for British passport applications

Hong Kong rushes for last way out

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

NOT since the trauma of the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 have so many people marched with such grim determination through the shiny glass and marble caverns of Hong Kong.

From the Wanchai Sports Stadium, commandeered by police to accommodate the throng, to the doors of Immigration Tower yesterday snaked an anxious procession almost a mile long.

In the 24 hours up to midnight last night, the deadline for Hong Kong residents seeking the only kind of British passport on offer, a second-class travel document, some 52,845 people made the long, slow trek — 20,000 more than applied in all of last year.

Amid scenes of pandemonium, Yau Sui-chun, a woman aged 61, was escorted by police through a scrum of television cameras and photographers to become the last person in the last major British colony to apply for British nationality.

Frustration erupted into violence on Saturday when a man clubbed a queue-jumper with his mobile phone. Four people were arrested.

The stampede to declare allegiance to the crown began last Monday, with 8,000 applications. But it reached its peak yesterday, in a week that has seen Hong Kong's confidence battered.

Already alarmed at China's lobbying missiles off the coast of Taiwan, Hong Kong has had to digest Beijing's moves to abolish the elected legislature, its ostracism of the one pro-China adviser who dared defy the decision, and its imposition of a loyalty test on senior civil servants.

While tycoons — many with real foreign passports — and their optimists, the mostly Chinese-born resi-

dents crowded outside Immigration Tower display the unease felt by many ordinary people.

It is a display far more potent than yesterday's 50-strong anti-China protest outside the headquarters of the Xinhua News Agency, China's diplomatic mission.

"I wish China's leaders could see all those people queuing up. That is the real voice of the Hong Kong people," said Martin Lee, a barrister and pro-democracy campaigner.

"Why should we Chinese not welcome 1997 with enthusiasm instead of queuing up to get British papers in the dying days of the British empire? People are so desperate, so afraid, they will do anything, even wait for hours to get a worthless passport."

Some 700 immigration service officials worked through the night to process applications for British Dependent Territories Citizenship (BDTC) — a status that allows no right of abode in Britain but offers an alternative to the Special Administrative Region (SAR) passports to be issued by Beijing after 1997.

A Chinese official yesterday denied that the rush represented a vote of no confidence. "Everyone acts like this just before a deadline," Zheng Guoxiong said.

Queuers had a different explanation. "I'm here to tell China what I think. This is a protest, people are worried," Donald Yip said. His wife tapped him on the back to shut up. "You see," he said, "even my wife is worried."

While many cited concern that Chinese passports will not provide visa-free entry abroad, they voiced unease about China's intentions.

"I'm not involved in politics but I don't trust the government in China," said Liu Yam, a jeweller from Kowloon.

"They say Hong Kong people can take care of their own affairs but they are already interfering in our business."

Royal web war feared as Queen sets up site in cyberspace

Nick Davis Royal Reporter

THE QUEEN took her critics by surprise yesterday by taking her first steps into cyberspace. Buckingham Palace announced that she has opened her own web site on the Internet, false footing those who have dismissed the monarchy as an anachronism in the age of the infobahn.

In a welcome message on her new "home page", at <http://www.windsor.co.uk>, the Queen says: "It is our hope that these electronic pages will bring us closer to the lives and interests of our younger subjects."

The web site offers com-

puter users an interactive tour of Buckingham Palace, a quiz about the history of the royal family and pages about royal pursuits.

The Queen's move into cyberspace won immediate support from Tory backbencher Sir Nigel Howton, whose Norfolk constituency borders on Royal properties at Sandringham.

"One advantage is that she can speak directly to her people — without Fleet Street distorting the message," he said.

But some of the first to connect up with the site believe she may have been given bad advice. "It is superficially attractive," said Jack Schofield, editor of Computing Age, "but there are huge holes in the sub-

Boot camps 'muddle'

David Fairhall and Alan Travis

GOVERNMENT plans to use the military prison at Colchester as a "boot camp" for young civilian offenders have been condemned as muddled and irrelevant by the Chief Inspector of Prisons, General Sir David Ramsbotham.

Sir David is well qualified to assess the Colchester boot camp scheme. As the army's former adjutant general, he was responsible for the military corrective training centre there. But although he has made known to the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, his concerns about introducing civilian offenders, they have evidently been ignored.

Sir David believes the idea of mixing civilian youngsters with military personnel is the result of "muddled thinking" — a political answer, he suspects, to the "Bring back National Service" lobby.

"I'm just not sure of the relevance of military training for young offenders," he says, "forming them up in threes and marching them around".



"I'm just not sure of the relevance of military training for young offenders, forming them up in threes and marching them around"

— General Sir David Ramsbotham, Chief Inspector of Prisons

Last year Sir David succeeded Judge Stephen Timmins, who had become a thorn in Mr Howard's side by refusing to endorse the Home Secretary's headline populist approach. The general's army nickname, "Rambo", may have suggested that here was a man who would be in tune with Mr Howard's policy of heavy sentencing, prison austerity and boot camps. In fact, Sir David believes that although prison conditions

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Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown welcomed the prospect of a US-style televised debate with John Major

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Barbara Bush is at the centre of a \$4 million libel suit that accuses her and George Bush of being malicious liars

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Stakeholding has its roots in a creed that has been frozen out during the bleak years of Thatcherite decline

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Manchester United and Liverpool will contest the FA Cup final at Wembley. Damon Hill won the Brazilian Grand Prix

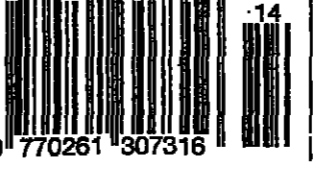
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The Guardian
the Observer
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One wedding and a funeral for the faithful

There was a closing fireworks display and they lowered the flag . . . then the county council passed peacefully into oblivion along with 129 other authorities

Monday sketch



Matthew Engel

MOST of the ladies, even the Labour ones, wore hats. The chairman said it was a sad occasion, though there were a lot of laughs. He was wearing what he called his "weddings and funerals suit", because it was, after all, a bit of both.

The grand total of 15 members of the public cared enough to come along and mourn or celebrate.

This was the very last meeting of South Glamorgan county council, a funeral that preceded the actual death. That came at midnight last night. There was a closing fireworks display and they lowered the flag and raised another one, as used to happen when the colonies became independent. Then South Glamorgan passed peacefully into

an oblivion where there are no minutes, apologies, resolutions, amendments, deferrals, chairpersons or references back.

It vanished, along with 129 other local authorities, mostly in Scotland and Wales, to be merged with various district councils to create what are picturesquely known as unitary authorities. Such changes traditionally take place on April 1. The same joke is made every time, and it is always valid.

But there will probably be another reorganisation along soon enough. South Glamorgan had only existed for 22 years, and four of the councillors had been there throughout its now redundant council chamber in Cardiff which was built only in 1988.

The final meeting, last Thursday, had only one motion, which was a lengthy paean to the council's triumphs, in particular its success in generating inward investment. It was proposed, a mite smugly, by Russell Goodway, leader of the Labour group which has controlled South Glamorgan for all but four years (1979-81) of the 22. The surprising bit is that it was warmly seconded by the Tory leader, Bernard Rees, who referred to a whole range of the council's "magnificent" achievements.



Lorna Hughes (left) and Vita Jones share a joke at the final meeting of the South Glamorgan council

The senior councillors were even allowed a little time to reminisce. "We had a lot of fun on the old Cowbridge rural district council," recalled one elderly Tory to cries of "Oooh" and "Tell us more." One was reminded of the brief national political truce that followed John Smith's death and all the promises made then that everyone at Westminster

would henceforth be nice to each other. This was not, Mr Rees insisted later, how South Glamorgan normally conducted its affairs. "We've criticised the Labour Party, lot. But when the council began, the two sides worked together well and that ethos has continued. We have pulled together on a lot of major issues for the

good of the county, especially on economic development. We've been lucky, because we never had a loony left here. On most councils there is — if you can use the word — a freemasonry that links the people who take up the bizarre hobby of local politics far more strongly than party differences divide them. The main difference between this

hobby and other ones is that the Government does not keep issuing instructions to stamp collectors to arrange their albums differently. All local councillors are aware that Whitehall will only ever be pleased with them if they shut up, levy no taxes and just keep the dustbins emptied. There is also a fair bit of bipartisan belief that this

reorganisation may be as flawed and short-lived as previous ones. With one local council instead of two, people will now have a better idea who is emptying their bins. They may just be rather confused about where they live.

From today there are 22 counties in Wales. Of the supposedly ancient princely Welsh names that have been used since 1974, just one — Powys — remains. Several of the pre-1974 counties are back, like Cardiganshire and Pembrokeshire. And there are a whole load of new names that will mean nothing to anyone, like Torfaen, Rhondda-Cynon Taff, and Aberconwy and Colwyn. (This is not an April Fool. This is happening.)

John Major sold the idea of this reorganisation to the Conservative Party conference as a return to tradition, because he hated the idea that Len Hutton would ever have gone out to bat for Glambershire. But it is not that. South Glamorgan splits into two new counties: Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff. But it will still have a high sheriff and Lord Lieutenant. And the county cricket club will continue to be Glamorgan. It's a bigger mess than ever.

It is not even a successful political gerrymander since, to fiddle the boundaries successfully, you have to have

some votes somewhere and the Welsh Tories have more less run out. As Bernard Rees put it: "My party's looking up. It has to. It's flat on its back. He is no longer a councillor: there is just one Tory on the new Cardiff council."

The BBC says it will go along dutifully with the new system. A Met Office spokesman thought forecasters would probably try and avoid county names. The Post Office says people can put what county they like on letters as long as they use the postcode.

I have a small proposal. What they ought to do is divide Wales into areas named after the signs most familiar to users of Welsh roads: LON AIR GAT (Lane Closed), OEDIN BOSIBL (Delays Possible), ARAWFCH NAWR (Reduce Speed Now), TRWSIO'R LON GERBYDAU (Carriageway Repairs), and YMDDEISTIRWYN AN UNHRW OBDL (Sorry For Any Delay).

It doesn't actually matter a stuff anyway. Bernard Rees could afford to be a good-natured leader of the opposition. Though he would always lose the vote in South Glamorgan, he knew that, in extremis, he could get a friendly hearing from the people who really mattered: the ministers at the Welsh Office. "In a way I had more influence than the other side."

TV poll clash call delights opposition

BBC and ITN seek US-style head-to-head debate but Tories conceal their hand

Andrew Cuff and Michael White

AS STORY Party strategists toy with high-risk plans to regain the political initiative, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday grabbed with both hands the prospect of a US presidential-style televised debate with John Major ahead of the general election.

Both ITN and the BBC are calling on the main party leaders to take part in a head-to-head televised debate during the general election campaign, an initiative which has been vetoed by one side or the other since 1978.

Dame Sue Tinson, associate editor of ITN, said the company would request a three-way debate, involving the two main party leaders and Mr Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

Richard Clee, deputy head of BBC political programmes, said: "We would welcome it, and I think the public would welcome it."

Though such a heavy-weight clash has never taken place in Britain, televised presidential debates have been an important feature of the US election scene since John F Kennedy's celebrated clash with Richard Nixon reputedly tilted the 1960 campaign in Senator Kennedy's direction.

Last night Tory officials stressed that "no decisions have been taken. This is a matter for discussion nearer the election. We don't rule it in and we don't rule it out."

Yesterday MPs were divided as to whether Mr Major's experience would outweigh Mr Blair's articulate manner. "Major would win," most Tories insisted.

All the same both Mrs Thatcher in 1987, and Mr Major in 1982, ducked a simi-

lar challenge from Neil Kinnock. The former Labour leader said yesterday that Mr Major is wavering now only because he is in such deep political trouble. Mr Major's standing is ahead of his party's but the latest Mori poll gave Labour a 57-26 per cent lead, with the Liberal Democrats on 13 per cent.

Mr Blair told BBC's Breakfast With Frost yesterday he was delighted at the prospect of a televised debate. But he added: "If they want to have a debate there is a very simple way of having it, which is to bring forward the date of the general election."

Mr Ashdown, whose party has also called for three-way TV debates on the US, Canadian or German model, called it "a marvellous way for voters to get involved in the big questions on the British agenda" but warned that it would need careful planning.

Both ITN and the BBC said there would be considerable hurdles to overcome, such as whether to involve Mr Ashdown and other party leaders, notably Nigel Farage, of the Scottish Nationalists.

There would have to be agreement on a chairman and whether questions would be put by one person or a panel. Both formulae have been used in the US. And David Butler, chairman of the Hansard Society, a cross-party group which promotes parliamentary democracy, said he would be prepared to draw up guidelines for such a debate.

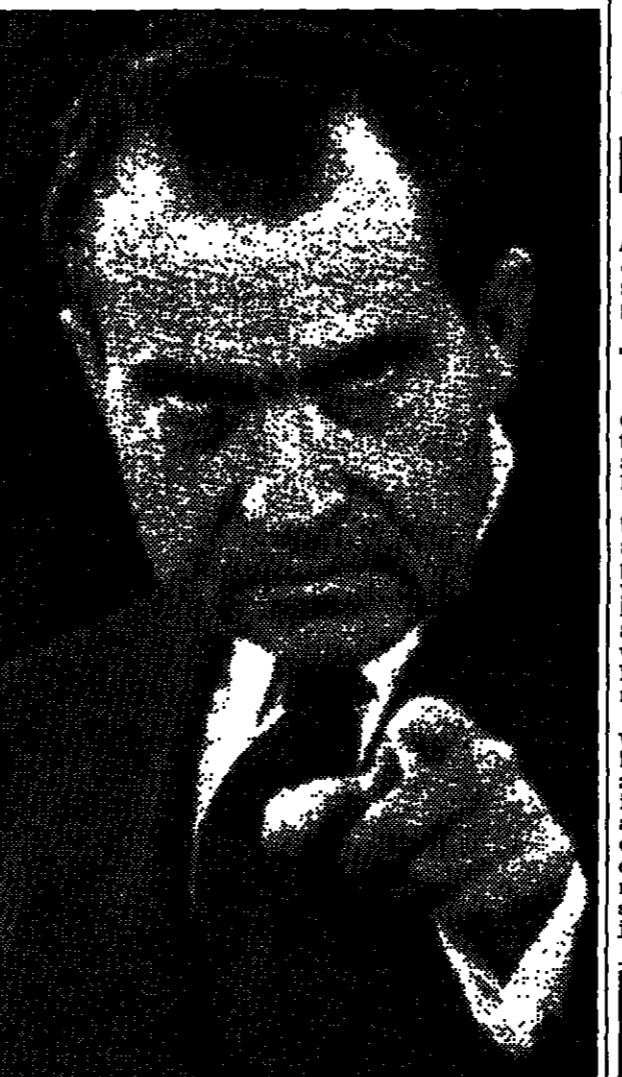
Speaking at a Voice of the Listener and Viewer conference at Westminster, he said: "The Australian election debates between Paul Keating and John Howard were disastrous because they did not have enough rules. They had a very weak chairman and no firm allocation of time."



John F Kennedy (left) and Richard Nixon, whose notorious TV clash in 1960 may make our political leaders think twice

AS John Major and Tony Blair deliberate over whether or not to agree to a televised election debate, they will have to look outside this country for inspiration — the United Kingdom has never staged such a battle of wits, writes Ed Pilkington.

Both men will no doubt give thought to the notorious clash in 1960 between the then vice-president,



Richard Nixon, and Senator John F Kennedy. Legend has it that Kennedy's brother, Bobby, arranged the studio lights so as to highlight Nixon's sweaty brow and five o'clock shadow.

A more positive reference for Mr Major would be the 1984 debate between President Reagan and his Democratic opponent, Walter Mondale.

In front of 100 million viewers, Reagan fumbled through his answers, showing his age and apparent confusion.

He still went on comfortably to win the presidential election.

If the two leaders do decide to pass ahead with a debate, they will also have to reflect on their preferred style of confrontation. Should it be gentle-

Posse goes soft

Review

Anne Karpf

Steve Wright Radio 2

THE way that you know you're getting older is not by the appearance of crow's feet or policemen getting younger. It's by the arrival of Steve Wright on Radio 2.

Wright was once lord of teen broadcasting on Radio 1 in the afternoon, but he's been peripatetic over the past two years, moving to the Radio 1 Breakfast Show, Talk Radio, and now to Radio 2. The network's new controller, Jim Moir, has brought him in to replenish the audience.

From Radio 2's point of view, the signing of Wright has a certain logic, at least according to its current priorities, which seem to scud about as much as Wright — one moment aiming at those eligible for a free bus pass, the next seeking to nab the forty-somethings Radio 1 has loudly jettisoned.

But from the point of view of Wright's radio-phonics skills, the move to Radio 2 isn't auspicious on the evidence of the first weekend. On Radio 1, Wright introduced a host of imagined characters, interesting sounds, and recurring gags, even if his famed Posse sounded demented and the humour was puerile.

But Saturday's opening show had a staid feel to it, from the music (Paul Simon, Fleetwood Mac, and heaven help us, Chris De Burgh), to the amazing but true feature. The toned-down Posse wasn't so much zoo as pet shop radio, and the guest list sounded like a variant of who would you least like to be trapped in a lift with (Anthea Turner and Jeremy Beadle). Indeed both interviews were remarkably similar, with Wright acknowledging that Turner and Beadle topped many people's hate-list, and the two celebs claiming they had the love of the great British public.

One wonders what Radio 2's traditional audience made of it all. And as for the intended new school of listeners, once again it's assumed that come 40, people only want to hear the music of their youth, as if a fear of the new or newish were a biological fact, and incoming listeners would only enjoy music which gently tickles their bald patches.

Wright's Sunday show sees him playing love songs, discussing office romances, and reading listeners' letters. It can only be a matter of time before he revives Simon Bates's Our Tune.

If this were played upon a stage now, I could condemn it as improbable fiction . . .



Mark Antony, left, (Julius Caesar, Act Three, Scene Two)

I come not, friends, to steal away your hearts: I am no orator as Brutus is, but, as you know me all, a plain blunt man. That love my friends; for I have neither words nor worth. Action nor utterance, nor the power of speech, to stir men's blood: I only speak right on.



John Major, left, (Conservative conference, 1991)

In the 1980s, the Tories started a revolution but it is not complete. In the 1990s, we will extend savings and ownership. We now have the chance to make enduring change, for people in their middle years are inheriting homes, businesses and firms on a scale never before seen. We must go much further in encouraging every family to own and to save. I want to see wealth cascading down the generations.



Tony Blair, left, (first conference speech as leader, 1994)

To hide the truth of the nation's problems, they have sold assets and used the proceeds to cover current spending: seventy billion pounds gone forever. All around, people sing hymns to the invisible hand of the market as it brings equality and prosperity, as cascades of wealth tumble from generation to generation. Welcome to Planet Portillo. It is the theatre of the politically absurd.

First constable to have his salary Olinked to his public performance

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

ACHIEF constable today becomes the first to have his salary linked to public perceptions of his performance.

Walter Boreham, head of the Ministry of Defence police, will have his bonus cut if he fails to win the approval of the people for whose safety he is responsible. The

move was attacked as "a dangerous precedent" by the Police Federation, which said it was "quite inappropriate" for a senior officer's pay to be dependent on reactions.

The MoD police becomes an agency today, the first force in the country to do so.

Under the change of status, Mr Boreham becomes its chief executive although he will still be known as chief constable.

John Major

JOHAN MAJOR and his advisers must be all too aware that as an orator he is no Mark Antony.

His diction is wooden and corned, rather like, as one seasoned political observer put it, "a clumsy translation of a foreign language."

What he lacks in elocution he makes up for in perceived sincerity. Mr Major has a knack of rising to the challenge and displaying his populist, Brixton-born, credentials.

Peter Bingle, a former Tory councillor and PR consultant with the Communications Group, said: "He has a way of projecting himself, warts and all, as someone who believes in the best interests of the country."

The great advantage Mr Major would have in a televised debate is that he is in government. "He is enormously well-behaved and as prime minister can speak with innate authority," said Professor Anthony King, of Essex University.

The danger for him in a live test of nerves would be that he is vulnerable to being rattled.

Tony Blair

TONY BLAIR, to adapt a famous Majorism, uses language that is at ease with itself.

His command of oratory could ironically prove a weakness on television, according to the psephologist, David Butler, "if anything, he is too fluent." "A nasty way of saying that would be 'smooth'."

Such smoothness was displayed, some critics have suggested, to excess, at the Labour Party conference last October in which Mr Blair

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Gift from Hospital

Left Bank Bloomsbury toast party of two

One of the best brought me here just because she became a

Gift from Virginia Woolf's niece inspires a Bohemian retrospective



A leopard from Simon Bussy's animal series, and his portraits of (below right) his wife, Dorothy Strachey, and (below left) the writer André Gide

Left Bank meets Bloomsbury to toast portraits of two ladies



Paul Webster in Beauvais

Janie, both of whom died in 1960.

DESCENDANTS and admirers of the Bloomsbury group and Paris Left Bank intellectuals will meet in this northern French town today for the inauguration of the biggest retrospective of works by Simon Bussy, the French painter whose wife was Dorothy Strachey. Although nearly 130 of Bussy's oil paintings and pastels will be shown — most for the first time — Beauvais has no direct link with the exchange between two of the most influential cultural sets of the pre-war years. But it is to become the permanent home for Bussy's portraits of his wife and their daughter

Among those invited today will be Angelica Garnett, the sculptor and niece of Virginia Woolf. Her book *Deceived with Kindness* was about her Bloomsbury childhood with her parents Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant, both painters. She now lives in Provence, and it was her recent gift of the portraits of Dorothy and Janie that inspired the retrospective. The Louvre gave the paintings to Beauvais Museum for its mid-20th century collection. But it was a GP from the Pas-de-Calais, Philippe Loisel, who traced the links between Bloomsbury and the Left Bank's Nouvelle Revue Française through writers such as the

Nobel prizewinners André Gide and Roger Martin du Gard. Both their portraits are on show — Du Gard, because he translated Dorothy Bussy's autobiographical novel, *Olivia*, and Gide because of Dorothy's passion for the French writer, which led to the publication of volumes of their correspondence and English translations of his work. But these are only two of the cultural figures, from Lytton Strachey to Henri Matisse, whose influence on the lives of the Bussys makes the Beauvais exhibition a mine of raw biographical material. "I am distantly related to Bussy, whose family came from Dole [near Switzerland] where they were shoemakers for generations," Dr Loisel said. He traced about 500 Bussy paintings, mostly in private British collections, including the Rothschilds. "Bussy studied in Gustave Moreau's class with Matisse, Bonnard and Marquet. His first contact with the Strachey was with Pernel, who was studying at the Sorbonne. In 1903, after settling in London, he married Dorothy, who was five years older." The links between Bloomsbury and the Nouvelle Revue Française after the couple moved to Roquebrune, on the Riviera, to a house called La Sonce, which Virginia Woolf despised. It was there, and during regular visits to London — where Bussy taught Grant — that they lived the classic life of struggling artists, providing bed and breakfast for many cultural leaders of their generation. Bussy — ironic and very French, in Woolf's description — lived in Woolf's description — lived in Roquebrune opposite Gabriel Hanotiaux, a historian who took him to Egypt and Sudan to

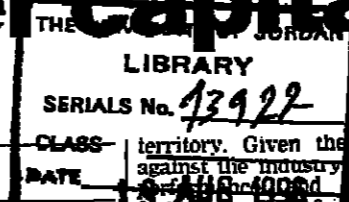
illustrate several books. The original paintings form much of the exhibition, along with Bussy's series on animals and fishes — hence the exhibition's title, *From the Zoo to the Gentry*. But the animal paintings are unlikely to do as much for his reputation as the 19 portraits, most of which were dispersed among private collections in a sale in

1964, 10 years after Bussy's death in London. Ms Garnett found the paintings of Dorothy and Janie in a portfolio. "I bought them because they were so lovely — not because of the family connections," she said. "Bussy was very underestimated as a painter because his life was shared between Britain and France."

Major tests feeling on water industry competition

PM signals retreat over capital gains

Michael White Political Editor



JOHN Major signalled a cautious pre-election retreat from his pledge to abolish capital gains tax at the weekend when he refrained from bracketing it with his now-familiar commitment to "cut and, when possible, abolish" inheritance tax. The Prime Minister's speech to the Conservative central council's spring conference in Harrogate bore the hallmarks of a market-testing operation to see which themes will play well with the voters when he goes to the country, either in October-November or, more likely, in April or May 1997.

territory. Given the approval of the industry, the "fat" of the industry is senior executives, that should prove popular. But it underlines the folly of attempting the technically complex task of modifying or abolishing capital gains tax in the run-up to an election, since Labour would say ministers were protecting the chiefs of privatised utilities who have done well from share options. No decisions on capital gains or inheritance taxes.

Premier remains committed to the emotive issue of abolishing inheritance tax

which are cumbersome to collect and yield barely £3 billion, have yet been made. Officials said Saturday's omission from Mr Major's text was caused by lack of space. But the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, is thought to be wary of Mr Major's enthusiasm, not least because accountants know how to avoid such taxes anyway. During the recent Finance Bill some Tory MPs called for capital gains tax to be phased out or "lapped" so that the longer investors hung on to shares the less tax they would have to pay. One concession, extra allowances for entrepreneurs who sell out at 50

instead of 55, was introduced by Treasury minister Michael Jack.

Mr Major remains committed to the emotive issue of abolishing inheritance tax even though critics complain that few of the relatively few voters who have enough money — net worth over £200,000 — to qualify for the tax are unworried enough not to avoid paying it. "I can't defend a tax that stops children inheriting what their parents have worked to earn and save," he told party workers. "It's a tax on the family, and helping the family is what we're about."

The passage which attracted most media attention was also dear to party activists hearts, the Prime Minister's confirmation that a green/white consultation paper is imminent to set out plans, first outlined in last year's budget, to ring-fence some assets of those who insure themselves against the need for costly long-term care in old age.

Endorsing Peter Lilley's "partnership principle" — borrowed from the US where its success has been limited — Mr Major said: "Someone who pays for their own care out of an insurance policy will then be given a higher capital exemption from the means test applied by local authorities for long term care fees when the insurance runs out."

Some 40,000 people are believed to have had to sell their homes to pay such fees. Insurance of £50,000-£80,000 would protect some equity — if they can afford it.

Attention all shipping: some weather is missing

John Ezzard

EIGHT names as familiar as and more beloved than the cast of *The Archers* are due to vanish from BBC shipping forecasts from today. They are the coastal resorts Fife Ness, Bridlington and Dover, plus the inshore waters Walton-on-the-Naze, St Catherine's Point, Mumbles, Liverpool Crosby and Larnie. And much less crucial weather information will be

broadcast on five sea areas cherished both by those who go down to the sea in ships and those who like to imagine themselves doing so. The areas are Dogger, Thames, Wight, Lundy and Rockall. The names, spoken on air since broadcasting started in the 1920s, were due to disappear from midnight because of a dispute between coastguards and the Coastguard Agency. Other famous names, such as Malin, Fair Isle and Ronaldsway, are considered safe be-

cause most of their data is collected electronically. The dispute arose when the agency told the Met Office to stop paying coastguards 80p for each report, which gives some an extra £500 a year. But the agency has asked them to keep filing reports. One coastguard said, "Several times, when we've been too busy to file our coastal waters report, people have phoned up and said, 'Why weren't we mentioned on the shipping forecast?'"

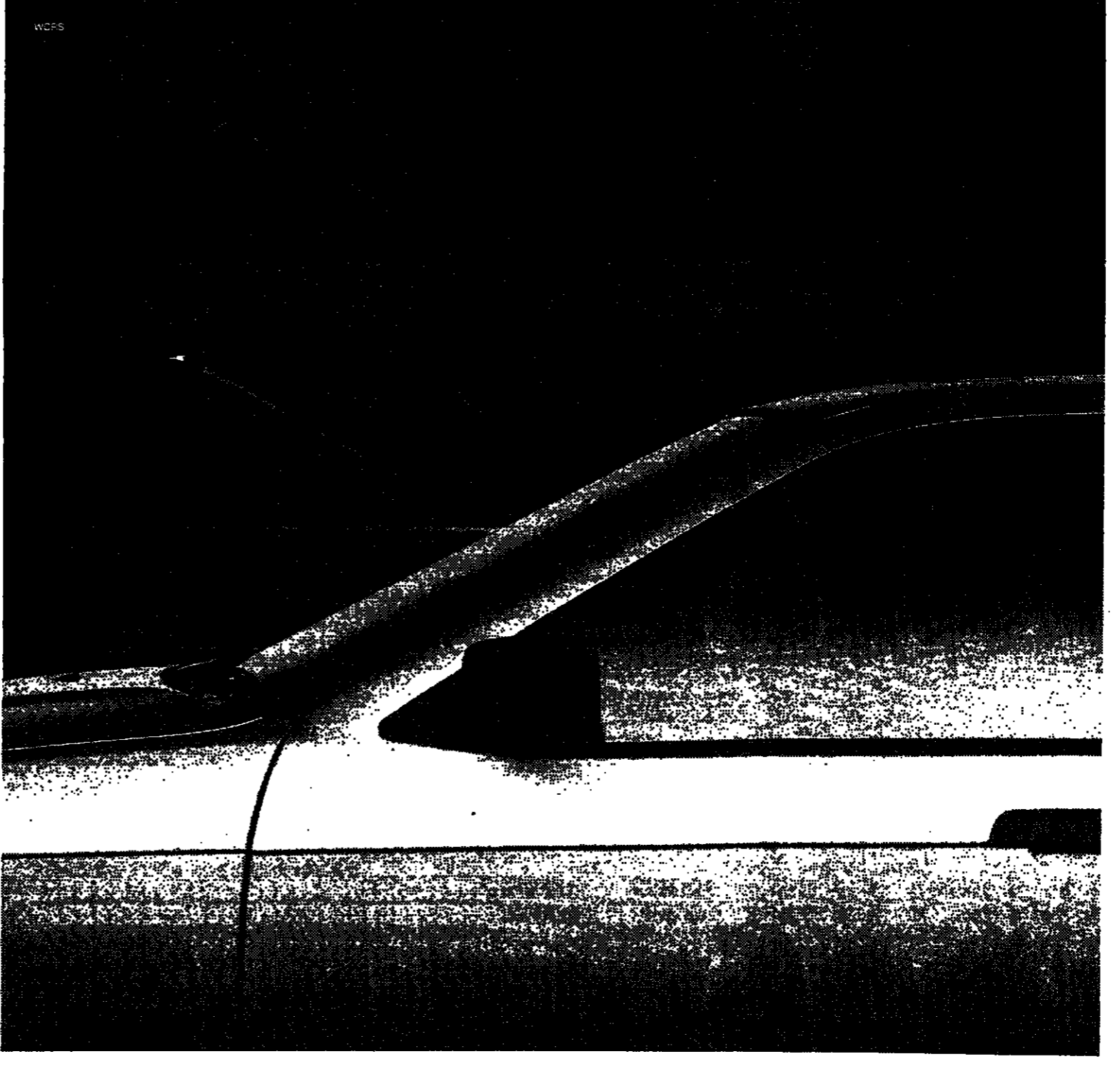
Prison inspector dismisses boot camp plan

continued from page 1

The regime is intended to rehabilitate, but is designed specifically for uniformed personnel. The chief inspector is not the only person with reservations about the boot camp. Last week the Prison Governors' Association passed a resolution demanding that a civilian governor should be in charge. It appears the civilian wing will be run by a prison service official, but the mili-

tary commander will have the final say. This will be Mr Howard's second boot camp. The first, with no military connections, opens this summer at Thorncross, Cheshire. Colchester is expected to take its first civilian inmates in September. Military staff have already received training at the Prison Service College in Rugby. It is understood that detailed work is under way on

the regime that will face the persistent teenage offenders sent there. It will be austere, with an emphasis on drill, and with few privileges. Harry Fletcher of the National Association of Probation Officers said: "The clear signal that the army and not the Prison Service is to manage the military camp, with its emphasis on drill and polished boots, means that short, sharp, shock is back with a vengeance."



THANKS TO IDS THERE ARE NO FLIES ON THIS BMW.

At BMW we have long believed that our cars should be as attractive as possible. Producing our latest innovation, however, has led us to something completely repellent. Recently introduced across the whole BMW range, it's called the Insect Deflector Screen or IDS for short. It has taken five years to perfect and is the brainchild of scientists at our Research and Development Centre in Munich. Leading them was our head of windscreen technology, Dr Jurgen Afsalfurt. First of all, they studied the way different species of insects would collide with the surface of an ordinary BMW windscreen. Once they had sufficient data they created a clear rubber solution with just the right degree of elasticity. Only then did they apply this solution, a composite of styrene, butadiene and isoprene, over the entire windscreen. Less than 0.01 millimetre thick, it is completely invisible to the naked eye. So successful has it proved that, even at high speeds, insects literally bounce off.

Development work has already begun on adapting the IDS system for use on BMW headlights. And front number plates will also be available with this feature in the near too distant future. You can find out more about IDS by filling in the coupon, making a bee-line for your nearest BMW dealer or by visiting <http://www.bmw.co.uk>.

Post to R. Vetter, BMW Information Service, P.O. Box 161, Crofton CFS 108, Rotherham and see more information on the Insect Deflector Screen (IDS).

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Q1 4P THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

“One of the police officers called in even brought me one of his crazy letters and told me ‘He just wants to talk things out with you’,” she says. “I couldn’t believe my ears. I’ve become a virtual prisoner in my own home.”

Maggie O’Kane

The BSE trail



1976 Changes to the processing of sheep carcasses to prevent spread of scrapie to cattle.
September 1979 Royal Commission starts the process of tracing animal diseases to humans via wildlife.
1980 Government deregulates cattle-food products.
November 1986 BSE officially diagnosed by Central Veterinary Laboratory, Moredun, following the year.
July 1988 Government bans use of scrapie-infected sheep-wool in textiles.
August 1988 All BSE-infected cattle ordered to be slaughtered. Milk from BSE-infected cows banned.
November 1988 Britain's animal food, human diets, from consumption by humans.
May 1989 First of several government orders that it is illegal to sell BSE-contaminated carcasses.
October 1991 Investigation into the deaths of two businessmen who died of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease.
March 1996 Government publishes research linking BSE with the variant of CJD.

Brain disease 'predated BSE'

Owen Bowcott on scientist's findings in undiagnosed cases

THE reported "new" strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease identified by government researchers existed long before the emergence of BSE in cattle, according to a leading research scientist.

The claims by Gareth Roberts, a neuropathologist, have come as the Ministry of Agriculture confirmed it is contemplating banning the use of blood from abattoirs as a fertiliser on farm land for fear that the disease could enter water supplies.

Dr Roberts reviewed stored samples of brain tissue dating back over the past 30 years. He is understood to have found undiagnosed CJD cases many of which exhibit fresh forms, or even mutations, of the condition which gradually destroys the brain.

Some of them, according to the New Scientist magazine, show similar patterns of deterioration as the CJD strain identified in 10 victims by the government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee. Dr Roberts now works for SmithKline Beecham but could not be contacted yesterday. The Department of Health could not comment on his work. The cases grouped together by SEAC all involved people under the age of 42, symptoms which persisted long before death and a common pattern of damage to brain tissue.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food confirmed it was considering whether to add blood to the list of animal waste which should be destroyed rather than recycled through the farming industry. "It's out for consultation and we are taking it forward quickly," claims from Harash Nar-



Seven-month-old Masie Stubbs, who was among 1,000 villagers at Bradworthy, near Barnstaple, Devon, protesting at the EU ban on beef yesterday

no attempt to remove justified public health controls.

"Some of the regulations have completely different licensing requirements for the handling of mince meat as compared with meat pies. There was an extensive public consultation exercise last summer. We are not trying to relax safety measures."

The Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, has attacked the quantity of EU rules which, he claims, impose excessive restrictions on food companies.

"The alarm over food safety has also affected pigs, it was revealed yesterday. There is a risk here," the Oxford Dictionary, likewise, defines safe as "out of, or not exposed to, danger".

The mismatch between public perception and scientific orthodoxy is a problem which has exercised the Health and Safety Executive on previous occasions. At the height of the debate over nuclear power, researchers even tried to impose a numerical value on what is "safe".

For the nuclear industry it was felt that the public would accept a risk of one in a million that someone might die because of a power plant.

The Government and its critics can agree only that the risk from BSE is unquantifiable because of the state of scientific knowledge.

News in brief

Island cancer deaths studied

THE Government yesterday offered expert help to analyse cancer deaths on a Scottish island to see if they could be linked with fall-out from the Chernobyl nuclear power station explosion in 1986. Scotland's chief medical officer, Robert Kendall, said it was unlikely Chernobyl was responsible for a spate of cancer cases at Benbecula in the Western Isles.

The Scottish Office offer came after local GP Francis Tierney noted 19 new cancers had been reported since 1994, when he would have expected six.

Four charged over kidnap

FOUR people are due to appear in court today following the alleged three-day kidnap and torture of a 27-year-old woman. The four, including a husband and wife and the husband's brother, are being held in custody and will appear at Horseferry Road magistrates' court.

Scotland Yard said the kidnap victim was freed from an address in London at about 10pm on Friday after an investigation by its organised crime group. Money, drugs and firearms were found.

Barclay George Walters, 37, of Epsom, north-west London, was charged with kidnapping, false imprisonment and firearms offences. Anurish Sharma, 31, and his brother Sanjeev Sharma, 27, both of Hounslow, west London, were charged with kidnap and false imprisonment. Sanjeev Sharma's wife Dipty, 25, was charged with false imprisonment. A fifth suspect, a 23-year-old woman student, was released on bail until April 13.

— Angela Johnson

Child agency help limited

THE Child Support Agency may be no help to low-income lone mothers, according to a study published to coincide with the agency's third anniversary today. Based on interviews last year with 53 lone mothers, the study says many on income support saw nothing of any maintenance collected from former partners; those listed just above income support level by maintenance lost valuable linked benefits, and former partners often reacted by stopping informal help with children's clothing, birthday and payment for school trips.

— David Brindle

Travel shops challenge

UP TO 50 travel shops may be established in large towns and cities if an experiment in taking on the overseas package trade is successful. The first UK Holiday Shop opened in Northampton last month and another will follow soon in Chester in an attempt to create a brand image that rivals big travel agency chains.

Forty-two holiday operators are already backing the pilot scheme, part of a wider campaign by the English Tourist Board to revitalise the service offered by 550 tourist information centres, most run by local authorities.

— James Melville

Prescription cost attacked

SOME asthma sufferers are not taking vital drugs because they cannot afford the soaring cost of prescriptions and are not aware of a government scheme to cut their cost, a charity warned yesterday. As prescription charges increased by another 25p an item to £5.50, the National Asthma Campaign called for an overhaul of the Government's season ticket scheme, which cuts the cost of prescriptions.

About 3 million people in the UK are estimated to suffer from asthma, but a survey carried out for the NAC indicates only half the population is aware of the scheme. More than one in 20 who paid for prescriptions could not afford the lump sum payment — £78.40 a year or £28.50 every four months — needed to benefit.

Lottery rollover

NO ONE scooped last week's National Lottery jackpot, so next week's rollover top prize could be worth as much as £20 million. Thirty-two tickets won £36,898 each for matching five balls plus the bonus ball. The winning numbers were 27, 12, 49, 27, 26, 28. The bonus number was 43.

'Safe' does not mean 'zero risk', says scientist

Whitehall and among health and safety officials has failed to convince millions of consumers eager for absolute assurance that they cannot be poisoned by what they eat.

Talking on the BBC's Breakfast With Frost, Ray Bradley, a member of SEAC, the independent committee advising the Government on BSE, insisted that the risk to humans from beef was so small as to be almost negligible.

On gelatin and meat he said: "The position has been made quite clear that both these substances are safe in the ordinary meaning of the word. That does not mean zero risk, but it means safe."

Dr Bradley's formulation follows the phrasing of the Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, who has also de-

clared that British beef is safe to eat. "Nothing is completely without risk," a Department of Health spokeswoman added yesterday. "We would not use the word in an absolute sense."

The semantic — and political — controversy centres on what constitutes "normal" usage. The Consumers Association supports the absolutist definition. "If there is a risk then it cannot be safe," a spokeswoman said yesterday, "and there is a risk here."

The Oxford Dictionary, likewise, defines safe as "out of, or not exposed to, danger".

The mismatch between public perception and scientific orthodoxy is a problem which has exercised the Health and Safety Executive on previous occasions. At the height of the debate over nuclear power, researchers even tried to impose a numerical value on what is "safe".

For the nuclear industry it was felt that the public would accept a risk of one in a million that someone might die because of a power plant.

The Government and its critics can agree only that the risk from BSE is unquantifiable because of the state of scientific knowledge.

Labour spoof over Tory tax record

Michael White Political Editor

THE Labour Party last night stole a march on its rivals by becoming the first party in British political skulduggery to use April Fool's Day as justification for placing a spoof advertisement in the Times — purporting to offer taxpayers a £2,030 rebate from John Major's government.

Behind the joke lies a campaign, set to be launched by Tony Blair and Gordon Brown today, designed to warn voters that, after three years of steady increases in central taxation, they can now expect three years when ministers load an estimated £3.5 billion — equal to 2p on income tax — on to local council tax and unified business rates.

The full-page advertisement announces an eye-catching "£2030 Tax Refund" in large letters before explaining "by way of apology, the Conservative Party has decided to offer British voters their money back" after 22 tax increases since the 1992 election.

Labour's ad — purporting to be financed by "former Conservatives who support the Labour Party" — urges voters to phone Conservative Central Office or "post this coupon" to get a rebate cheque.

"We are truly sorry for all the hardship we have caused," Conservatives are supposed to be admitting.

Yesterday the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, was in no mood of contrition as he defended the Government's record, "tough but very compassionate" towards vulnerable groups, including the elderly, sick and unemployed. He cited the Chancellor's budget claim that average families will be £9 a week better off in the coming year.

Labour officials have always attacked that figure as misleading and admit that their own £2,030 is open to similar objections in that it exaggerates the true position. Labour's usual charge is that taxes have gone up by around £800 for average families since 1992.

Morris warns Blair over conference's policy sovereignty

Michael White

THE TRANSPORT workers' leader, Bill Morris, yesterday warned Tony Blair that the Labour conference will remain sovereign over policy-making despite plans to stage a pre-manifesto ballot among all 350,000 members.

Hinting that the process might not end up as a formal ballot, Mr Morris told GMTV's Sunday Programme: "We must wait and see. It's very early days yet. A lot of discussion will take place before party conference. But at the end of the day, the party conference is the sovereign body."

The Transport & General Workers Union is campaigning for a commitment to a minimum wage of £4 an hour, something the Labour leadership is determined not to concede before it gains office, despite what Mr Morris called the absolute despair and poverty of people now working for as little as £1.20.

Mr Blair is keen to avoid excessive expectations and traditional charges of betrayal if Labour wins next year. He spoke of leaders having to "put the national interest before any sectional interest of your own party" even as he dismissed critics of his modernisation drive as "smaller than people think."

Mr Morris's remarks prompted reassurances from Robin Cook, the shadow foreign secretary, that the ballot concept floated by Mr Blair at last week's NEC meeting was not intended to "bypass or undermine existing constitutional procedures, as some leftwing critics among MPs and the unions fear."

On the same programme, Mr Cook stressed that "when we get to that (party) referendum we will already have gone to conference and got the full approval of conference for the document."

The ballot — which Mr Morris himself had called "a refreshing development in British politics" — was designed to persuade supporters to "campaign for this manifesto, to sell it at the general election."

It would not be "a passive vote" simply designed to extract a Yes, but a conscious exercise in consultation.

Mr Blair said on BBC's Breakfast With Frost that he did not want "to repeat the mistakes that some Labour governments in the past have made of coming to power with some vast programme, hugely raised expectations and trying to do everything at once".

The country wanted a fresh start, not a revolution, with a government prepared to face hard choices rather than to drift.

He added: "I do not want to get into power with a whole load of great intentions and then find us falling apart because we're not exercising proper control."

Party critics fear that the leadership's concern to win mainstream respectability and avoid Conservative scare stories may render it uninspiring to core voters. Mr Blair's team is seeking balance in terms of a simplified but substantial message.



The broadcasts invariably begin with the rape or car crash or shooting of the day. Even small towns may suffer at least one of these mishaps per day.

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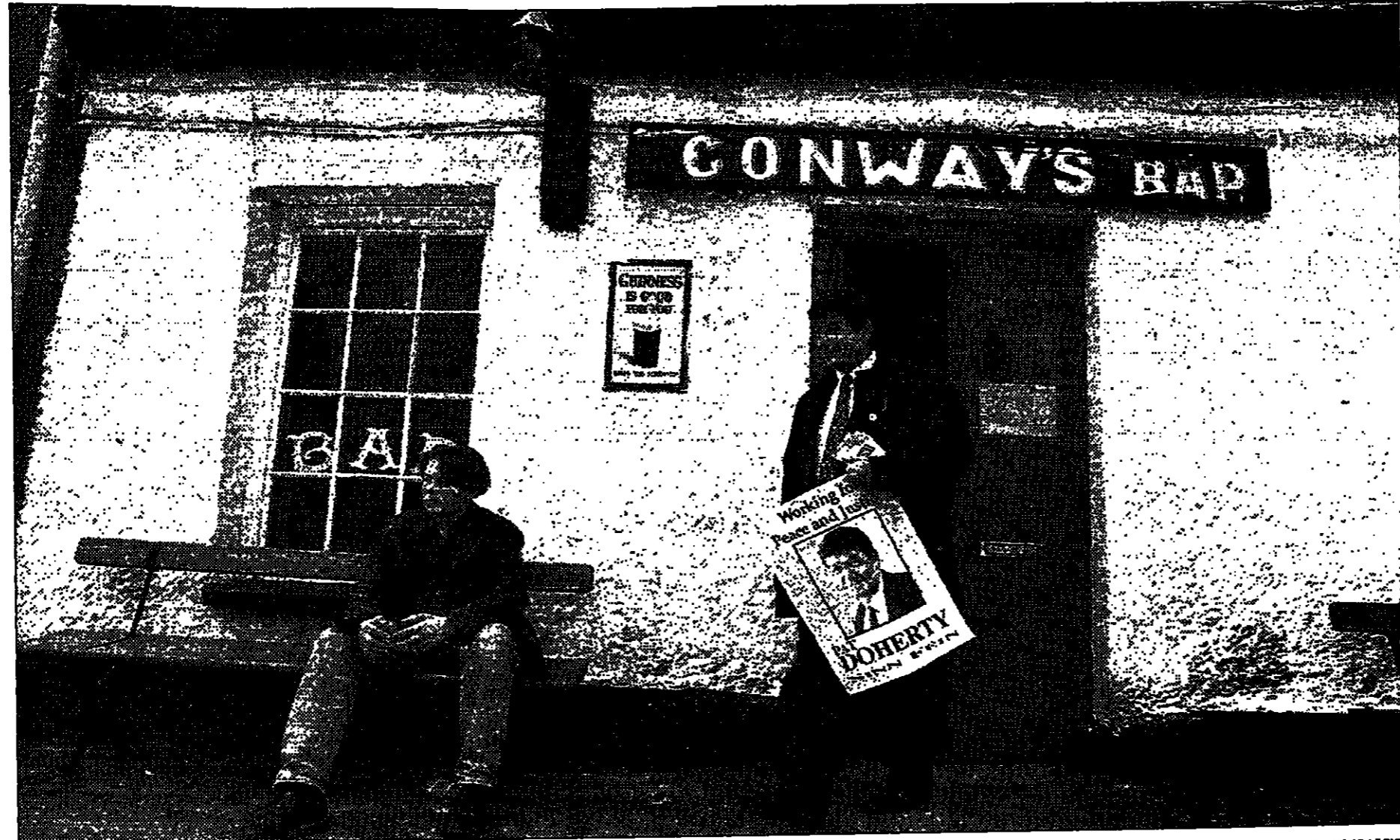
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Sinn Fein's peace test in Donegal

David Sharrock on by-election dilemma



Irish hospitality... Sinn Fein vice-president Pat Doherty canvassing in Ramelton where he repeatedly came up against the ceasefire issue. PHOTOGRAPH BY KELVIN BOYES

THE timing could not be worse. Sinn Fein faces its first electoral test since the ending of the IRA ceasefire when it fields a strong candidate, party vice-president Pat Doherty, in an important by-election in the Irish Republic. But as Mr Doherty's team canvassed north-east Donegal this weekend they knew that the IRA's decision to end its ceasefire is weighing heavily on the minds of the voters. It is something of a Catch 22 situation. In order to demonstrate to militant republicans that the "unarmed strategy" is the right path to take, Sinn Fein must perform well at the polls. But in order to do that, the IRA's campaign of violence must be an ever-receding memory.

The by-election takes place within the historic province of Ulster — Unionists sacrificed the three counties of Donegal, Monaghan and Cavan in order to create a perpetual majority — and is being closely scrutinised for indications as to how Sinn Fein might do in the May 30 Northern Ireland elections, if they take part. Since Sinn Fein ended its abstentionist policy in 1986 and recognised the legitimacy of the Dublin parliament, the party has harboured hopes of winning a seat in the border county of Donegal, where republicanism has firm roots.

The by-election was caused by the death of Neil Blaney, the state's longest-serving TD (MP), whose strongly-voiced "Brits Out" opinions caused him to leave Fianna Fail and stand as an independent. As Mr Doherty canvassed in Ramelton, known as "the holy city" because of its preponderance of churches, he repeatedly came up against one issue. "People want the ceasefire reinstated. The fact that the IRA has ended its ceasefire, well we just have to live with it," he said. "You're not going to go from our electoral base to overnight success, but people are clearly recognising my leading role in the peace process. They would be concerned about the current state of it, but they are also saying that it is the British and the Unionists who are failing to grasp the opportunity."

Road activists plan busy summer

Veteran campaigners moving to other sites after 'moral victory'

NEWBURY activists buoyed by the momentum generated by the anti-bypass campaign are planning a summer of similar actions. As people living in the last protest camps along the route are evicted this week, ending the first stage of the battle against the road, veteran campaigners have already started moving to other sites around the country. In the three months since clearance work started to the west of the Berkshire town, thousands of people have travelled there to support the hundreds of protesters living in benders and treehouses. It turned into the largest

anti-road campaign in Britain, becoming a focus for civil rights as well as environmental issues and costing the Highways Agency an estimated £1.5 million in security. There have been more than 720 arrests. The next stage in construction of the road will come within a few months when the Highways Agency awards the main contract. Until then several groups of protesters are forming camps off-route in preparation for further disruption. The mood in the camps yesterday was positive, despite the realisation that they had almost certainly failed to stop the road. Martin Healer, aged 37, said: "As far as we are concerned we have won. We have brought to the attention of people the whole point of car culture and where it's going. Everyone's read about how nature is getting trashed. "Before the campaign we were hated. Now surveys show we have the support of the majority of the population." He added that the cost to police and the contractors was so large that it might discourage road projects. The unprecedented interest that Newbury created has also inspired people to get involved in similar actions dealing with wider issues all around the country. The highest-profile action is planned for the beginning of May when The Land is Ours campaign will "reclaim" a derelict site near central London and turn it into a sustainable village and farm. Spokesman George Monbiot said: "After Newbury people are much more aware of their power to

Where next?

- Possible sites for the next round of environmental battles.
1. London: "Urban Land Guerrilla" at an unoccupied central London location in May. Activists will take over a large department store.
 2. Farnham: A2014M2 road upgrade between Farnham and Horsham. Nicknamed "The University of road construction" as people will be living there months before they moved in Newbury.
 3. Maidenhead: A26 road upgrade between Maidenhead and Windsor. Nicknamed "The University of road construction" as people will be living there months before they moved in Newbury.
 4. Farnham: A2014M2 road upgrade between Farnham and Horsham. Nicknamed "The University of road construction" as people will be living there months before they moved in Newbury.
 5. Farnham: A2014M2 road upgrade between Farnham and Horsham. Nicknamed "The University of road construction" as people will be living there months before they moved in Newbury.
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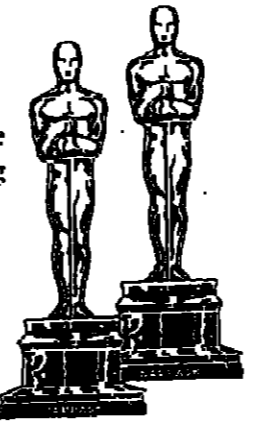


Oscar, Oscar, Bravo!

The two Oscars won by BBC Television programmes on March 25 represent the highest possible international recognition for excellence. We're proud to be associated with such talents as Nick Park — creator of Wallace and Gromit — and documentary maker Jon Blair. And to celebrate their achievements, BBC viewers can see both these Academy Award-winning films again this weekend.

A Close Shave: BBC1 Good Friday at 6.40pm.
Best Animated Short Film: An Aardman Animations production in association with BBC Bristol and BBC Children's International.

Anne Frank Remembered: BBC2 Easter Monday at 7.00pm.
Best Documentary Feature: A Jon Blair Film in association with BBC Television and the Disney Channel.



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From his home in exile, the agent punished for exposing America's dirty tricks tries to get even

The trials of Barbara Bush

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

BEFORE Hillary and Mr. Nancy there was Barbara. She was never accused of financial skulduggery — unlike her scullion. She was never ridiculed for leading matters of national policy in the hands of an aspirer — unlike her predecessor. She was always the sister of presidential wives.

first round of a fight between an ex-CIA whistleblower and a woman once regarded as America's national grandma. At issue are not only millions of dollars and the reputation of a presidential family, but the conduct of the American secret state in the darkest days of the cold war.

cover had been blown, along with many others, by a traitorous, tell-all book written by former CIA agent Philip Agee. Mrs. Bush wrote: "A quick glance at Mr. Agee's 1976 book inside the Company reveals a detailed diary of CIA antics and dirty tricks in Latin America in the 1960s, when Mr. Agee was a rising star in the agency. There is no mention of Richard Welch."

blamed Mr. Agee for the death of Welch, calling him a "reckless ideologue... who wantonly sacrificed the lives of intelligence officers". Mr. Agee says: "For 20 years now he's tried to say I'm responsible. He knows perfectly well that it's a lie."

were published in Athens News, a left-wing English language weekly. He was killed a month later. The Agee team says even Welch knew his cover had been blown. He had been warned to leave his home — widely known as the residence of the CIA station chief. He reportedly refused, saying his wife liked the swimming pool too much.

biography. In this version, the reference to Mr. Agee has gone and the death of the "gentle Greek scholar" is blamed on his exposure in Counter Spy. According to Mr. Agee's lawyers, the change proves that Mrs. Bush knows she falsely defamed their client.

Oil sale raises a cry of foul

Phil Osoin in Mexico City

AMBINATION of dirty, a pearl necklace and Mexican sovereignty at the heart of an increasingly acrimonious dispute which has brought thousands of demonstrators on to the streets, split Mexico's ruling party and heightened the "gringo" domination.

necklace she had planned to leave her daughter in her will. "I feel that if we don't do something now for our country," Ms. Loza says, "we'll never do it. Later on, perhaps it will be too late."

Even the poultry has reappeared on the scene. "To be a shareholder in the petrochemical industry, and a patriot at the same time," the PRD's Manuel López Obrador told demonstrators, "all you need to do is sell a couple of chickens or a turkey."

Some experts remain unconvinced, however. Between 1986 and 1992, they point out, the government redefined as "secondary" 43 of the 50 petrochemical products originally regarded as "basic".



Surin Sirinkon, leader of a group fighting land evictions, threatened to set himself alight during a protest against the Thai government. Thousands of farmers and workers have vowed to continue the anti-government rallies this week

Freedom statue stirs bad memories

David Beresford in Johannesburg reports on the controversy surrounding Nelson Mandela's plans for a national monument

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela's readiness to banish the "old" South Africa with the new is reaching fresh heights in his plans to build a controversial national monument. It will include a 69ft "freedom" statue of Mandela's hand breaking through prison bars. The cost is estimated at £10 million.

lighteners were eventually banned as a health hazard after a campaign by South African doctors. Danie de Jager, a sculptor identified with apartheid, has been commissioned to design the monument, on a site near Pretoria. His works include a large head of J. G. Strijdom, considered to have been one of the most racist of South Africa's prime ministers, and a statue for the grave of Hendrick Verwoerd, the "architect of apartheid".

full statue of Mr. Mandela and a wall on which the word "freedom" is repeated in 100 different languages. A "museum of apartheid" is to be added later, at a cost of £10 million. But there are doubts whether the "beacon of freedom" will see the light of day. Mr. Mandela's office said the project was "on hold" while it decided on an "appropriate way" of dealing with it.

But the minutes of an "interim committee" meeting last autumn show that Mr. Mandela had asked the Kroks "to provide bridging finance" and had "indicated that the government was backing the project financially".

His DNA sample carries traces of virtually every religious creed that has existed since the dawn of time.
The Devil

Q2 page 4

informative:

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(for loans taken out after 12 March 1995 with no interest rate discount)		
If a mortgage is held with First Direct or no other mortgage is outstanding on your property:		
From	To	
All loan amounts	6.95% pa	6.69% pa
If a mortgage is held which is not with First Direct:		
All loan amounts	8.95% pa	8.69% pa

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News in brief

Bangladesh military back caretaker PM

BANGLADESH military chiefs pledged full support yesterday to the caretaker head of government, Habibur Rahman, who has replaced the prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, in the run-up to elections.

Mr Rahman, a 68-year-old former chief justice, took over as head of the non-party government on Saturday after the president, Abdur Rahman Biswas, dissolved parliament under mounting opposition pressure. Elections have to be held within three months.

The chiefs of the army, navy and air force assured Mr Rahman of their "full support and co-operation in discharging his responsibilities in upholding the constitution, maintenance of law and order, and holding free and fair parliamentary elections", the news agency said.

Opposition leaders had been trying for two years to bring down Ms Khaleda's government. They boycotted elections in February, insisting that her Bangladesh National Party (BNP) was incapable of conducting a fair vote. They then mounted a national campaign of strikes and protests.

Thousands of people swarmed on to the streets of Dhaka on Saturday, dancing and singing in celebration after Ms Khaleda gave up power. Tight security was in force to prevent a possible backlash from her followers.

"I have difficult tasks ahead," Mr Rahman said. "My prime duty is to arrange a free and fair election, but my primary duty is to restore law and order." — Reuter, Dhaka.

Kurds 'declare war'

GERMAN politicians have denounced a Kurdish threat of attacks in Germany and against German tourists in Turkey as a "declaration of war". Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is banned in Turkey and Germany, told the Munich newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung that Germany could become the Kurds' "enemy number two" — after Turkey — because Bonn supplied arms to Ankara and harassed activists among the 400,000-strong Kurdish community in Germany.

"Until now my guerrilla fighters have known how not to die. Now they will learn it," he said. "Every Kurd will become a living bomb." He threatened attacks on Turkish tourist spots in which "mainly German holiday-makers would probably die".

Hundreds were injured and detained in recent riots by thousands of Kurds in Germany. The authorities ordered the instant deportation of the ringleaders.

The foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said the warnings were intolerable and other government members spoke of a "brutal declaration of war". — Jan Traynor.

Abacha sacks commanders

THE Nigerian military ruler, General Sani Abacha, has sacked his army and air force chiefs, a surprise move which further shakes the unstable West African country. A statement issued on Saturday said Major-General Alwali Kazir and Vice-Marshal Femi John Femi were replaced by Major-General Ishaya Bamiyi and Air Commodore Mutsaers Eduok. It did not say why the two men had been sacked or what had become of them. It is the second time Gen Abacha has fired his top military chiefs since he seized power in a bloodless coup in November 1993.

The firings coincide with a visit by a United Nations delegation to evaluate Nigeria's progress toward democracy. The team arrived on Thursday at the invitation of Gen Abacha, who is trying to end his country's pariah status since the executions of nine anti-government activists last November.

The team is holding meetings in the political capital Abuja. Human rights groups are threatening to boycott them if meetings are not allowed in the commercial capital Lagos. They fear they will be arrested if they have to travel to Abuja. Gen Abacha has jailed scores of anti-government activists and journalists during his rule. — AP, Lagos.

Tension rises in Lebanon

SOUTH LEBANON was in a state of high alarm yesterday as Israeli warplanes circled over towns and villages and the Islamist guerrillas of Hizbullah threatened to renew their rocket attacks on northern Israel.

The tension came after two Lebanese civilians were killed by Israeli artillery fire on Saturday. Hours later Hizbullah fired two salvos of Katyusha rockets into Galilee, slightly wounding one Israeli. Both attacks were in violation of a 1993 agreement barring firing at civilians.

The exchanges brought diplomatic intervention by the United States, which brokered the 1993 agreement. The state department is said to have urged Syria to use its influence to restrain Hizbullah. Israel has said the shelling was "a mistake".

Yesterday Hizbullah warned residents of northern Israel, who spent Saturday night in bomb shelters, that they could expect more rocket attacks if Israeli gunners fired at Lebanese civilians again. — Derek Brown, Jerusalem.

Ukraine killer hunted

A MASS murderer who has terrorised Ukraine for three months and killed 39 people has been identified by investigators as Sergei "Babik" Ignatenko, an ex-criminal from the Donetsk region. Police believe the 40-year-old is responsible for a string of village massacres in which entire families have been gunned down and their homes set alight. The killer is still at large.

Ukrainians are hardened to the increase in crime since the collapse of the Soviet Union five years ago, but have nonetheless been shocked by the ferocity of the attacks in small rural communities darkened at night by the country's energy shortage.

The killings began on December 30 in Bratislavich, near the Polish border, when a man shot four members of a family with a hunting rifle and set fire to their home. Two weeks later the killer shot seven people, including five members of one family. Since then the killer has struck in five other villages in western and central Ukraine, murdering a total of 39 people, including eight children. — James Mack, Kiev.

Base raises island passions



Outrage... Japanese demonstrate yesterday against the renewal of US bases in Okinawa, where a girl was raped by three servicemen

Cambodian reports conflict

THREE Scotland Yard officers have arrived in the north-western Cambodian town of Slem Reap to advise on efforts to secure the release of the British mines-clearance specialist Christopher Howes, abducted last week by suspected Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

The three arrived to confusion and contradictory reports from the provincial authorities about the progress of efforts by intermediaries to make contact with the gunmen who seized Mr Howes, aged 38, and his interpreter, Hour Boura, aged 30.

The governor of Slem Reap, Toum Chhay, told representatives of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), for which the pair work, that he believed the hostages were still within reach of intermediaries, but that they had had no contact with the abductors so far. A man alleged to have helped the gunmen kidnap Mr Howes and his interpreter has been arrested, the governor said.

Archibald McCarron, head of MAG's Cambodia operation, said that MAG was not being given a regular update on developments and had only been able to meet the governor once since the hostage drama began. — Nicholas Cumming-Bruce, Phnom Penh.

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Russia calls a truce in Chechnia

David Hearst in Moscow

President Boris Yeltsin ordered a unilateral ceasefire in Chechnia last night and offered to start negotiations with the rebel Chechen leader, Dzhokhar Dudayev.

But Russian forces continued their controversial long-range bombing of rebel villages up to the ceasefire at midnight last night and the commander in chief of Russian forces, Colonel-General Tikhonov, said the president's declaration of peace "did not mean a stopping of all operations".

Mr Yeltsin also revealed that any talks with Mr Dudayev — who is still the subject of a Russian arrest warrant — would be through a third party.

"The main condition under which negotiations on the status of Chechnia could be started is normalising the situation in the republic and establishing peace, calm and stability there," said Mr Yeltsin in a nationwide address. "For the sake of that we are ready to enter into negotiations, through intermediaries, with Dudayev's side."

But with the Russian foreign minister, Evgeny Primakov recently, ruling out independence for Chechnia, no new political breakthrough is expected even if talks do come about. Most of the political measures announced by Mr Yeltsin yesterday were aimed at fostering a Chechen-to-Chechen dialogue.

These included the idea of convening a peace forum of Chechen elders and representatives to prepare for an election of a new parliament backed, eventually, by a devolution treaty.

Such a scenario, which is similar to Russia's arrangement with the Muslim-dominated republic of Tatarstan, is unlikely to be much ice with Mr Dudayev as he falls a long way from independence.

There was no word last night of an official response from Mr Dudayev, but rebel field commanders have promised to launch more strikes with hostages being as they did in Badkoyevsk last year and Kizlyar this year.

There was widespread scepticism in Chechnia about the ceasefire on both sides of the line. "We do not hope for anything, as the situation here is dictated by the Komsomol," said Aslanbek Dulkhadibev, deputy to the Chechen commander Shamil Basayev.

"Boris Yeltsin can do nothing here without Dudayev's agreement."

Russian soldiers were equally sceptical. "I believe it when I am back home," said one.

Under Mr Yeltsin's ceasefire plan Russian troops will be pulled back to the borders of Chechnia, leaving the interior-ministry and army brigade in charge of the main towns, strategic crossings and bridges. But the president said he would negotiate further terrorist acts.

"Responses to them will be adequate," he warned.

The recent Russian offensive recaptured most of the ground lost when Russian troops halted their operations last year to start direct talks in Grozny. Mr Yeltsin said two-thirds of Chechnia was now under the control of federal forces.

Although the latest assault involved heavy civilian casualties, it is unlikely to tempt Mr Dudayev's forces for long. They could, however, use the halt in operations, when it comes, to regroup.

Martin Walker, page 9



Little fighters... Chechen boys play war games with toy guns in the ruins of a destroyed building in the ravaged capital, Grozny

PHOTOGRAPH: OLEG NIKSHIN

'Why not just finish us off?'

Houses are burned and bodies lie on the streets, Lee Hockstader writes from Semovodsk

THEIR faces blank, their eyes on their feet, the refugees from the charred ruins of Chechen villages near here shuffled silently past a Russian military checkpoint. None had much to say to the camouflaged soldiers who had burned their houses, killed their livestock and left their villages strewn with their neighbours' corpses.

Suddenly, a middle-aged woman turned on the Russian troops. "This is already the third time you've done this to us," she screamed. "Why don't you just get it over with and finish us off?"

A Russian soldier called Dima gazed back at her coolly. "OK," he said. "Next time we'll try to finish you off faster."

As Russian troops press a spring offensive against rebels in Chechnia, they are killing civilians at a rate that has stunned relief workers and human rights groups — but has been largely ignored by the Western governments.

In the past three weeks Russian artillery and helicopter gunships have pounded Chechnia towns and villages while Russian troops have carried out unprovoked killings, arson attacks and indiscriminate arrests, the aid workers and human rights groups say.

They have focused on villages which had hitherto escaped the fighting, as well as towns which have been attacked before, such as Samashki, in western Chechnia, where Russian

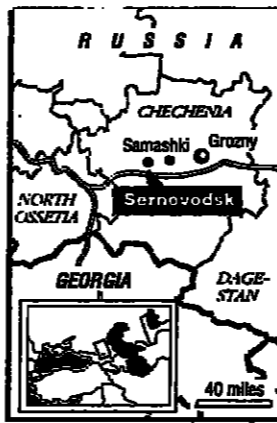
troops killed more than 100 civilians a year ago.

In the latest places destroyed — west and south of Grozny, the Chechen capital — hundreds of civilians are reported to have died this month.

Aid workers and even officials of the Moscow-installed Chechen government say Russian troops are out of control.

"It's the worst I have ever seen, and I've seen a lot," said Peter Rohrbach of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who has worked in Croatia, Somalia and other war zones. "I was shocked."

In one recent incident reported by the Red Cross, Russian troops fired a mortar at 74 women carrying a white flag who were trying to escort civilian relatives



out of Samashki. Before the attack, the women had been granted permission by troops to walk down the road that was shelled. At least six were wounded.

"The soldiers who did it were drunk, totally trashed," said Zaina Zayeva, one of the women. "Afterward, an officer

came up to them and asked these drunk kids: 'What the hell are you doing? These are women.'"

Boris Kamiev, mayor of Semovodsk, another town in western Chechnia, told Amnesty International that civilians were killed by Russian soldiers when they entered the town after several days of shelling.

He saw them seize a woman and take her to a nearby house, where her body was later found.

In an incident reported by the Moscow Times, Russian troops ordered 18 women and children in Samashki to line up against a wall, then tossed grenades at them, killing four women and wounding others.

Troops barred access to Samashki and nearby Semovodsk to outsiders and foreigners, including journalists and aid workers, so it was difficult to corroborate the reports.

Independent observers said that before the Russians began attacking the Chechen towns and villages, they opened corridors for civilians to flee their homes — but only for a couple of hours.

Relief workers have reported that scores of Chechen men and boys, some only 10, some as old as 65, have been arrested and taken away. Between 100 and 200 men were arrested in Samashki and dozens more in Semovodsk.

Nearly all the refugees on the road last week were women.

The men are believed to have been taken by the Russians to detention centres known as "filtration camps", in which there had been widespread reports of torture.

Red Cross and other officials said recent requests to visit the camps had been rejected. — Washington Post

Giscard critic elected leader in his place

Paul Webster in Paris

DELIVERING a humiliating rebuttal to former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the Union for French Democracy (UDF) chose François Léotard, his arch-critic and former defence minister, as its new chairman yesterday.

Mr Giscard, who founded the multi-party group 18 years ago to counter domination of the right by the Gaullist RPR, retired as UDF leader last week having failed to make it France's biggest political force. His last-minute public appeal in favour of Alain Madelin, the former finance minister, rallied less than a third of the party at a Lyon congress.

Mr Giscard, aged 70, head of state from 1974 until he was beaten in 1981 by the Socialist leader François Mitterrand, was visibly shaken by the fact that 57 per cent of UDF delegates backed Mr Léotard, aged 54, who spent years claiming that Mr Giscard was too old to lead the country's second most powerful right-wing force.

Mr Giscard's rearguard fight for Mr Madelin has confirmed a deep rift in the UDF, which has 12 ministers in government and controls the senate, most regional councils and some big cities.

In a voice broken by emotion, Mr Giscard implied that Mr Léotard, chairman of the UDF's biggest component, the Republican Party, was responsible for "chronic divisions". Mr Madelin, aged 50, who received 30 per cent of the vote, was credited with being a unifying force who could prepare the ground for the 1996 general elections.

But the wrangling at the congress has raised doubts whether the UDF will be able to continue what was its strong European mission under Mr Giscard while coping with a damaging internal struggle.

Mr Léotard, who lost his cabinet job last May after sup-



François Léotard: Record of hostility to Jacques Chirac

porting Jacques Chirac's Gaullist rival Edouard Balladur in the presidential election, appears ready to recast the movement by seeking new right-wing alliances at the risk of offending smaller UDF components.

His closest political friends are the former European Parliament Speaker Simone Veil, head of the education minister, François Bayrou. But he needs partners in the Gaullist movement if he is to gain enough support for an eventual presidential bid. His record of hostility to Mr Chirac will do nothing to ease tensions in the governing coalition, which has suffered from Mr Giscard's 20 years of political enmity with the president.

Mr Léotard's commitment to Europe is more credible and consistent than that of Mr Madelin. His ultra-conservative views offended the prime minister, Alain Juppé, who sacked him as finance minister in August after three months in office.

Mr Madelin's outspoken Thatcherite views make him a natural enemy of Mr Chirac's calls for a socially-oriented Europe. Although Mr Madelin, a vice-chairman of the Republican Party, failed to convince the 8,000 UDF MPs and councillors in yesterday's poll, internal opinion surveys showed he was far more popular among the rank and file than Mr Léotard.

Dutch told to tighten drug laws

Ian Traynor in Amsterdam

A QUARTER century of tolerating soft drugs is under threat in the Netherlands as Germany and France step up pressure on the Dutch government to fall into line with their anti-drugs policies.

Mandief Kanther, the German interior minister, joined the chorus of French condemnation of Dutch policy at the weekend while the Bavarian prime minister, Edmund Stoiber, said in the Netherlands that The Hague would not be able to continue with its liberal position.

The Franco-German campaign comes a year after the Schengen accord opened borders between France, Germany and the Benelux states. In an ostentatious move

aimed at forcing the Dutch to fall into line, President Jacques Chirac closed France's borders with the Benelux states last week to combat the alleged drugs menace.

He described Dutch policy as a "scandal", and a French parliamentary report by Mr Chirac's party demanded a "rational" discussion with him on the drugs issue.

But the government has nonetheless responded to the pressure by introducing a bill to curb cannabis sales and reduce the amount that may be held without fear of penalty.

Germany is the strongest

advocate of the open-borders regime. But a year after changing came into force, Bonn is leaning on its southern neighbours to make their legislation in contentious areas dovetail with its own.

Mr Kanther claimed that the Netherlands played a huge role in Germany's drugs problem: more than 80 per cent of the drugs seized in Germany came from there. The French say that more than half the drugs seized in France enter across the Dutch border.

In the hundreds of coffee shops of Amsterdam, where up to a dozen varieties of cannabis are listed on the menus, the mood among consumers and dealers is laid back.

They regard the government bill as lip-service and fear a real shift in a long-

standing policy which has made the city a mecca for European youth.

The co-ownership and use of soft drugs is proscribed, but the authorities turn a blind eye, as they also do to possession of small amounts of hard drugs. There are around 1,000 coffee shops in Amsterdam trading in hashish machine tools, computers and cipher equipment.

Mr Chirac wants them all closed. The bill limits the number to 1,000 nationally.

The government resents the pressure from its neighbours and has produced statistics to show that its drug policies work better than those in France and Germany. It has convinced some of Germany's 16 states are backing the Dutch, urging Mr Kok to continue and have no fear of a real shift in a long-

Last hurrah for Operation Comfort

Chris Nuttall reports from Incirlik airbase on a forgotten Western mission to protect the Kurds of Northern Iraq

WESTERN allies protecting the Kurds of Northern Iraq from Saddam Hussein are facing eviction from Erbil airbase in southern Turkey. The Ankara parliament renewed the mandate of the mission last week for what could be the last time.

Operation Provide Comfort — increasingly controversial inside Turkey, increasingly forgotten outside — was gradually extended by MPs until June after Mesut Yilmaz, the prime minister, promised it would not continue past then in its present form.

Instead of having to pack up and leave this morning, the 1,500 British, American and French taskforce members are now planning joint celebrations with Kurds for the fifth anniversary of the mission on Friday.

The Turks are organising a backgammon tournament; the French a football match; and the Americans

and British are planning the latest battle for their Ryder Mug on the nine-hole golf course laid out among the runways. There will be barbecues and tugs of war, and little thought spared for the Iraqi leader who brought them together.

But it could be the last hurrah. Turkish politicians say the security zone established by Operation Provide Comfort has provided a safe haven for the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and allowed the setting up of a de facto Kurdish state by its Iraqi counterparts.

The PKK's pro-Islamic Welfare Party is now the largest party in parliament and favours closer ties with Baghdad and the rest of the Muslim world.

The uncertain future for the mission is reflected in the accommodation at Incirlik, just outside the city of Adana. Five years on, most of the multinational force is still living in tents.

But the dirt floors have been replaced by concrete, there are wooden partitions, and air-conditioning has been installed.

A chain of "Morale Tents" provides a library, a wide-screen television auditorium, banks of video games, a travel agency, shop, surgery, fully-equipped gymnasium and what the Combined Task Force chaplain calls his "canvas cathedral".

Last weekend an early warning plane beamed back information by satellite on whether the no-fly zone established above the 36th Parallel was being breached by President Saddam.

The planes were soon back due to bad weather. "Usually it's clear and we come back with good results," said Wing Commander Rick Cobelli, the pilot of one of the Tornados on reconnaissance.

"There's a lot of Iraqi military equipment to be seen, but most of it is static."

President Saddam has positioned his fifth army above the 36th parallel, but none of his 300 warplanes has challenged the no-fly

zone in the past two-and-a-half years.

The co-commanders of Operation Provide Comfort are US and Turkish brigadier-generals. General Donald Lamontagne, the new American arrival, refused to be deskbound and has already piloted an F-16 over Northern Iraq.

He is proud of the operation's record. "We've touched the lives of three-and-a-half million people since we've started. We've resettled 700,000 and constructed 12,000 permanent shelters every year since 1991," he said.

Although there have been suggestions that the operation could move to southern Cyprus, US officials say the election from Incirlik would make the mission unsustainable.

The KDP and PUK, the Iraqi Kurdish groups dominating the region, say the consequences for the Kurdish people would be disastrous.

Safeen Dizayeve, the Ankara representative of the KDP, predicted a repeat of the exodus of 2 million Kurds which led to Provide Comfort's inception five years ago.

News in brief

Go-between in ranch siege

THE battle of wills between the US government and a cell of heavily-armed extremist fugitives intensified yesterday, as a far-right folk hero offered to mediate. Jonathan Freedland in Washington writes.

Randy Weaver, a white supremacist whose wife and son were killed by FBI agents dur-

ing a 1992 stand-off at his home in Ruby Ridge, Idaho, said he would mediate between the FBI and the so-called Freemen who have been locked in a six-day siege in Jordan, Montana.

The Freemen have declared a 960-acre farm to be an independent political entity, free of the US state.

Kinkel warns on Bosnia aid

The German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said yesterday that German and possibly European aid for post-war reconstruction would be withheld if the last prisoners of war in former Yugoslavia were not freed by midnight.

Mr Kinkel was reiterating the position of the five big-power sponsors of Dayton — the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia — who called on the former warring parties to honour the peace accord. — Reuter.

Author silenced

Chinese police prevented the American author Amy Tan from speaking at a charity event in Beijing, apparently because of its cause — Chinese orphans — organisers said yesterday. — AP.

Not invited

President Lamine Zouarou of Algeria has invited more than

Tom Wakefield

Way out of the ordinary

SINCE he was so clearly a born writer, it surprised many people that it was in his 40th year that Tom Wakefield, who has died aged 61, published his first book — his non-fiction *He's My Best Friend* (1974), reissued three years later as *Special School*. But if he was a born writer, he was also a born teacher, at once infinitely patient, sympathetic and understanding when dealing with the disabled children in his care, first at the Franklin School in Wiltshire and then at Dunsview School in Hackney.

When he gave up this vocation (it was always a vacation, not a job, to him) for his writing, was typical of him, always tenacious and loyal in his friendships, that he should continue to see so many of his former colleagues, even though their lives were totally remote from the ordinary world which he had entered.

Clearly, he might well have followed a third vocation, at Rugby Grammar School, Staffordshire, this boy, whose father was a major and whose mother supplied the meagre family income by going out to charity dinners, to be an actor, his headmaster, the formidable Colonel Hutchinson, had at the idea and told him that he should opt for

teaching. Wakefield, so obstinate in his later life, surprisingly gave in and took a special education diploma at the Trent Park teacher training college in North London.

However, his skills as an actor were not wasted. Frequently he would say that a successful teacher was always, in part, also an actor, and when he read from his novels, it was as actor, as much as writer, that he would ignite his audience. There was something theatrical, too, in the extraordinary exactness with which, in his books, he would catch the precise rhythms of everyday speech through every stratum of education and class.

Like many other novelists — Beryl Bainbridge and Angus Wilson come to mind — Wakefield's hugely entertaining repertoire of anecdotes often gave the impression that he was already processing the raw material of experience for subsequent use in his novels. Many of these anecdotes concerned his minor father, about whom he wrote with so much love, understanding and gratitude, both in his autobiography of his early years *Forries Child* (1980) and in his novel *Mate* (1983). (The latter, about the 25-year relationship between two homosexual working-class men, terminated only by death, is surely a minor masterpiece.)

My favourite of these stories was of how Wakefield once brought a lover back to his father's house. For lack of a proper bed, the two youths were obliged to share a folding one. So energetic was their love-making that the bed suddenly folded in on itself and the two were trapped. Their shouts for help eventually aroused Wakefield *pare* who, in no way fazed, prized the bed apart and then, still half-asleep, staggered back to his bedroom to lapse once more into unconsciousness.

In all his books, Wakefield shows that his supreme talent, all too rare among modern novelists, is for describing goodness. Often this goodness is found in charac-



The disaster investigator Vic Marshall... asked questions which might not have occurred to others

Vic Marshall

The risk factor

IN 1974 the Nypro plant at Flixborough exploded, killing several workers. It was to Vic Marshall, who has died aged 74, that the Transport and General Workers Union and the scientific union, STMS, came for technical advice. The result was compelling evidence to the subsequent inquiry from Marshall, a world pioneer on chemical hazards.

Later, Marshall was called as an expert witness on the Piper Alpha disaster. In 1979, he assisted the Irish inquiry into the Whiddy Island refinery explosion. And it was his calculations which helped explain Spain's worst tourist tragedy, when 215 campers perished after a 1978 chemical tanker explosion.

Born in Sunderland, Marshall worked in the chemical industry from 1940-69 while devoting many hours to studying for corporate membership of the Institute of

Chemical Engineers. Without a first degree, his research work enabled him to earn a masters' degree and then, in 1985, a PhD from Bradford University where he then lectured. His 1975-83 service on the Health and Safety Commission's hazards committee was followed by a string of other advisory posts. He had become the leading British authority on process safety and in his 1985 doctoral thesis — completed after what he called his "first retirement" from Bradford — he defined his contribution to the field as being centred on "the critique of the concept of acceptable risk".

Safety thresholds, he insisted, were a public concern, too important to be left for private industry's unilateral decisions. In 1987, the thesis became *Major Chemical Hazards*, the standard work on the subject.

He retired again at the end of 1995, having maintained a

close association with the University as an honorary visiting fellow at Bradford, first in industrial technology and later in chemical engineering.

As a disaster investigator he was recognised for his capacity to ask questions which might not have occurred to others. His sense of mission meant that no scrap of evidence was unexamined, no element of mystery left remaining, and he went beyond identifying the immediate causes to encompass issues like the safe siting of control centres, offices and residential buildings.

In 1979, his *Disaster at Flixborough* was published and the university textbook, *Fundamentals of Process Safety*, written in collaboration with his colleague, close friend and comrade Stephen Ruhmann, was nearing completion at the time of his death.

Marshall was a vigorous polemicist and Marxism in-

formed his rigorously rational approach. He and his wife Joan were dedicated members of the Communist Party across five decades, and the Soviet Union's collapse was an occasion of personal grief. He was also a studious browser of theological literature and, more than once, amused his companions by pausing in a cathedral to argue an obscure point with the Dean.

He shared with Joan a dedication to amateur theatre and was also keenly interested in railways and trams. He often spoke of his fondness for Ireland, where he was held in high regard following his work for the Whiddy tribunal. He is survived by Joan, and by two sons and a daughter.

Michael Mullin

Vic Marshall, chemist, born August 1, 1921; died March 14, 1996



Tom Wakefield... teacher to story-teller

Christopher Headington

A friend of Aldeburgh

THE composer, pianist and writer, Christopher Headington, has died in a skiing accident, aged 65.

Born in London, he was educated at Taunton School and the Royal Academy of Music, where in 1949 he won the Leo Bortwick Prize for best instrumentalist. Among his tutors, there was the composer Lennox Berkeley, who described Headington as "my first pupil". Their friendship lasted until Berkeley's death in 1989. Headington was proud that in 1989 he recorded a CD of several of Berkeley's piano works, including the sonata.

Berkeley introduced the 18-year-old Headington to Benjamin Britten, who encouraged the shy, private young man. Headington received one of the first of the English Opera Group's commissions, a concert work, *Qui Habito*, and, in 1948, Britten put him forward for a commission from the Revd Walter Hussey, the enlightened incumbent of St Matthew's, Northampton, whose patronage had already engendered Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb*, Henry Moore's *Madonna and Child*, and Graham Sutherland's *Crucifixion*.

Composing and performing were Headington's first loves



Boysish enthusiasm... Christopher Headington

and greatest strengths, though he produced fluent critical writings and was a regular reviewer for the Gramophone magazine for many years. His earliest works show the influence of Berkeley and Britten when he favoured genres of a classical leaning — sonatas, quartets and song-cycles — but he later moved away from his mentors' shadows. He was delighted when his violin concerto was recorded by Xul'Wei in 1991, and only last year, in the course of our final conversation, Christopher told me, with mounting, almost adolescent excitement, that there was a plan to record his orchestral song-cycle, *The Healing Fountain*,

in memoriam to Britten. Christopher loved conversation, especially about music and musicians and preferably over a protracted meal. He relished, with boysish enthusiasm, and — ironically — shied, at timid individuals might consider risky hobbies: fast cars; aviation (he was a qualified pilot, and once offered to take me on a Sunday morning jaunt along the Suffolk coast); and — ironically — skiing, of which he had been a proficient exponent for many years.

Philip Reed

Christopher John Magennis Headington, musician, born April 28, 1930, died March 19, 1996.

Ursula Heathcote Nicholls

Seeker after peace

URSULA Heathcote Nicholls, who has died aged 75, was one of that determined band of women who made Greenham Common the focal point of the 1980s anti-nuclear movement. A veteran of the Aldermaston marches of an earlier generation, she swapped the comforts of Devon for weekends spent with the opponents of cruise missiles camped at the gates of the Berkshire airbase, accepting imprisonment for her beliefs.

On New Year's Day 1983, in the company of women barely half her age, she scaled the base's barbed-wire fence and was arrested after linking hands with fellow protestors to dance symbolically on top of the missile silos. Sentenced to two weeks' imprisonment at Newbury magistrates court, for refusing to be bound over to keep the peace, she had to go through the

indignity of a strip-search in Holloway prison.

Born in Mysore state in southern India where her mining engineer father Francis Heathcote, OBE, was the manager of Kolar Gold Fields, she was separated from her family aged seven and educated in Australia. Both countries exerted an enduring influence on her. It was with a grim irony that the anti-nuclear campaigner learned, on one return to India in the 1980s, that the mineshaft designed by her engineer father was projected to become a spent nuclear waste dump.

The seeds of her pacifism were sown in the early 1950s when her army officer husband was stationed at the Woomera rocket-testing range in South Australia. After reading detailed accounts of the results of the Hiroshima bombing she

refused to allow herself or her family to be involved in the testing being carried out at the secretive range.

An interest in progressive education brought Ursula and her four children to England, initially to visit A S Neill's Summerhill, but then to Dartington where she finally settled. From 1970 to 1983 she worked as a house mother at Foxhole, the senior school of Dartington Hall. In her retirement she worked as a volunteer at the Women's Refuge in Torbay. An avid letter writer and poetry lover, she corresponded with the American poet May Sarton until the latter's death last year. She is survived by her four children and nine grandchildren.

Geoffrey Gibbs

Ursula Heathcote Nicholls, campaigner, born November 19, 1920; died January 24, 1996

Ryohei Saito

The bubble bursts

RYOHEI Saito, a controversial businessman and collector of Western art, has died at the age of 79, some weeks after having suffered a stroke. He achieved fame in the west for his 1980 purchases of Vincent Van Gogh's *Portrait of Dr Gochet* and Pierre Auguste Renoir's *Au Moulin de la Galette*, for \$82.5 million and \$78.1 million, record prices for single paintings.

He then won notoriety when he said that he wanted the two paintings put into his coffin — to save his heirs having to pay inheritance tax on the works of art. There was an outcry in Japan, and he later changed his mind. Friends said that his paintings would be donated to art institutes.

But Saito also attracted controversy as a businessman. He took over as president of Daishowa Paper Manufacturing in 1961 on the death of his father, Chichiro, who had founded the company.

He was always known for his aggression, and he built up Daishowa to become Japan's second biggest paper manufacturer. But he also got into trouble and faced questions in parliament over accusations that Daishowa had caused pollution. The oil price rises of the 1970s and recession hurt Daishowa and forced Saito to relinquish control to Sumitomo Bank. But he was back four years later, angered that the bank had sold some cherished paintings as part of the reconstruction.

The "bubble economy" years of the late 1980s brought Saito his fame. His purchases of works of art also included 1.5 billion yen (now worth 4 million) for a version of Rodin's *The Thinker*, which he gave to a museum in his native Shizuoka. He sold stock in the company and land in Tokyo to buy paintings and shot to the top of the list of Japanese taxpayers in 1991.

But the bubble years also led him into trouble. He joined people venturing foolishly into property and construction. He also used his family's political connections. His brother was Shizuoka governor and a son is a member of parliament.

Last year Saito was found guilty in the Tokyo district court of conspiring to give an 100 million yen bribe to the Miyagi governor to get

Michael Mullin

Ryohei Saito, businessman, born April 17, 1916; died March 30, 1996

Keynes still has the answers

How rising pri



Ryohei Saito... who wanted his Van Gogh and Renoir acquisitions buried with him

preferential treatment in a golf course development in which Daishowa was involved. He was given a three-year suspended sentence.

Saito was ensnared and brought down because of his political ties. The case came to light as part of the 1993 raids on the homes and offices of former political godfather Shin Kanemaru (*Obituary*, March 29), who died last week.

Kevin Rafferty

Ryohei Saito, businessman, born April 17, 1916; died March 30, 1996

If you didn't buy the...



RIZLA +

صحنه من الامم

Trebles a l'ou...

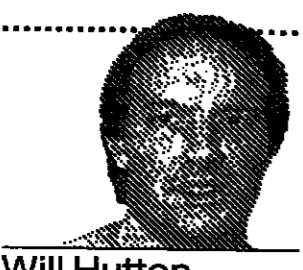
Worm's eye

Dan...

Indicator

Stakeholding has its roots in a creed that has been frozen out during the bleak years of Thatcherite decline

Keynes still has the answers



Will Hutton

FIFTY years ago this month, a 35-year-old economist published what remains the century's economic masterpiece. John Maynard Keynes's General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money may not be quite the holy grail of economics, but it is the nearest anybody has ever come.

ainties of laissez-faire or the wishful abstractions of socialist planning. Yet in 1996 all too few protest their loyalty to Keynes and Keynesianism. The old Keynesian confidence in both Britain and America that successful application of the tools of macroeconomic policy — the manipulation of government spending, taxation, borrowing and interest rates — can lift economic growth and move towards full employment has disappeared across the political spectrum.

leaves the macroeconomic high ground in conservative hands. It fatally undermines the social democratic and liberal case. For what underpins the suspicion of macroeconomic policy is the great conservative ideological constraints. Markets are infallible. Free markets will work perfectly. As a result, the job of macroeconomic policy is to do as little as possible because, by definition, it will have little impact except, perhaps, in the short run.

much to empower labour when the demand for work is inadequate. To make technology, however useful, the centrepiece of a progressive agenda while giving up an activist macroeconomic policy is absurd. And be careful, he warns, about arguing for infrastructure spending because it boosts the productivity of the private sector; the evidence is not sufficiently robust. The better argument is that it lifts overall levels of demand and employment. It should be made in those terms.

and regulatory policy. Moreover, as Galbraith argues, the orthodoxy — that stimulating the economy risks inflation if unemployment falls below some natural rate ("Nairu") — is the non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment — is proving an inoperable concept. For example, the US Federal Reserve, the Federal Reserve, raised interest rates in February 1994 because it thought unemployment was breaching its estimate that the Nairu was 6 per cent, and so inflation would rise; but it lowered rates 18 months later although unemployment was still below 6 per cent. Wage inflation never emerged. Indeed, real wages carried on falling.

ment stands at 14 per cent, even in a much-vaunted deregulated labour market. Estimates of the British Nairu vary as wildly as those in America, following the direction of unemployment rather than leading it, and making it just as useless as a guide to the natural rate of unemployment. Certainly it should not stand in the way of economic stimulation. Even in a medium-sized open economy like Britain's, to abjure any expansion does seem to be taking self-denial too far.

Post Office to local authorities — to borrow directly in the capital markets for investment purposes. But little progress will be made in the private sector until the ridiculously high hurdle rates for new investment — still on average around 20 per cent — and short pay-back periods of some two to three years can be eased in tandem.

stakeholder firms, in which more committed owners allow those expectations of financial returns to be lowered. It is thus the micro counterpart of Keynesian macroeconomics. The two go hand in hand so that lifting demand by a parsimonious economic policy can then best be exploited by individual firms.



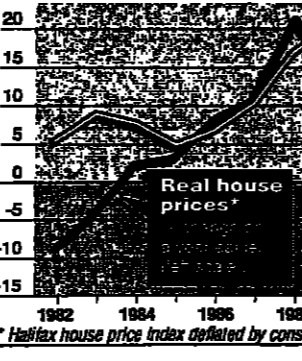
How rising prices could save the Tories

Briefing Larry Elliott

ONE of the great myths about Mrs Thatcher is that she loathed vested interests. True, she distrusted the civil service, flogged the nationalised industries and simply loathed the National Union of Mineworkers, but there were two groups for whom nothing was too much trouble.

"our people" is one reason for the whispering campaign against him by those dedicated to keeping the sacred flame of Thatcherism blazing brightly. Mr Major's heresy is seen as three-fold. First, he has reduced the value of mortgage interest relief. Second, he has allowed the destruction of fledgling companies through his stubborn defence of sterling when Britain was in the Exchange Rate Mechanism. Finally, he has resisted the temptation to boost his popularity by rekindling house-price inflation — the one form of inflation of which Mrs Thatcher approved.

Knock-on effect



the growth in the number of businesses. The findings are quite startling. It is well known that real house prices have a direct impact on consumer behaviour, as anybody who witnessed the orgy of equity withdrawal to fund the purchase of cars, holidays and dishwashers in the late 1980s doubtless recalls.

unreleased housing equity would have the effect of increasing the number of new business starts by between 5 and 6 per cent. If this theory is correct, it becomes easier to see why investment has remained so sluggish during the recovery. Real house prices have been negative for the past five years and only now are threatening to turn positive again.

Why Labour should stake its credibility on Esops

Debate Andrew Pendleton

LABOUR'S City spokesman, Alistair Darling, has outlined proposals to develop employee share schemes as part of "stakeholder capitalism".

schemes have such limited potential. The Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Esop), developed initially in the US as an instrument of popular capitalism, offers much more to the suppliers of stakeholder capital than "conventional" share schemes. As yet they are small in number in the UK (fewer than 100).

Employees have such limited potential. The Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Esop), developed initially in the US as an instrument of popular capitalism, offers much more to the suppliers of stakeholder capital than "conventional" share schemes. As yet they are small in number in the UK (fewer than 100).

Trebles all round on the telecoms Titanic

Worm's eye Dan Atkinson

IN THE argot of the trades, a refuse collector is "on the dust" and a milkman "on the milk". Lavatory cleaners are, presumably, on the toilet, and City professionals (brokers, merchant bankers, etc) are on to a good thing.

on all sides as a magnificent achievement. The financial press will carry savoring headlines such as "A Truly Global Player" and "Britain in the Big League". The merged board will award itself a colossal pay rise.

understood how the whole thing worked. Earnings will crash, and shareholders will be furious. The board will require a colossal pay rise. By now the financial press will be full of "deal too far" headlines, but help will be at hand. The corporate advisers will offer to "de-merge" BT-Cable into a domestic arm (BT) and an overseas arm (Cable) in return for "appropriate" (that is, astronomical) fees. Commentators will hail an "imaginative solution".

The fun will only just have started. Two weeks after demerger, AT&T (or someone) will slug it out with France Telecom (or someone else) for the domestic arm, while a vast but anonymous Japanese concern will scrap with a huge German outfit you've never heard of for the overseas bit.

Employees have such limited potential. The Employee Stock Ownership Plan (Esop), developed initially in the US as an instrument of popular capitalism, offers much more to the suppliers of stakeholder capital than "conventional" share schemes. As yet they are small in number in the UK (fewer than 100).

Indicators

Table with 2 columns: Indicator and Value. Includes UK EMI Annual report, UK MO figures, etc.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Table with 2 columns: Country and Rate. Includes Australia 1.88, France 7.45, Italy 2.345, etc.

Andrew Pendleton is at the Management Centre, University of Bradford

DRAMATIC GRAND NATIONAL CLAIMS ONE HORSE BUT DELIGHTS AN ARMY OF PUNTERS

Cynthia Bateman on how the best 12 minutes of one Irish jockey's life were followed by his most frightening moments — and vice versa

Blood, sweat and cheers

AT FIRST, all you could see above the massed ranks was a pricked ear. But it was now a very famous ear as Rough Quest...



Trotting home... Rough Quest is led back into Bear Greene Stables, Dorking by his lad Geoff Cook with a hand from owner Andrew Wates. GEORGE SELWYN

and soreness. But all three men rode him out in training to confirm their view that he was in perfect shape. "Terry cured the muscle enzyme trouble and Mick sorted out the other problem," said Wates, referring to their fear of Rough Quest's leading too soon...

The field stayed bunched, a great tidal wave of sound and colour, surging like seaparty and Son of War, another well-backed prospect and the only grey in the race, seemed to be challenging for Ireland until the Canal Turn, the 24th fence. There he negotiated the sharp left-handers splendidly while his jockey continued spectacularly in full flight in a straight line.

slightly but not to snatch, and in any case Rough Quest had him beaten. It was a storming finish, a full 1 1/2-length victory, and you felt that Rough Quest could have run on to jump the stone wall, the ploughed field and the two hurdles he had in the old days.

Casey's luck turns to good from Rough

Chris Hawkins on the quiet man who had the final word

THEY talk about rough justice but for once Saturday's Martell Grand National result was totally just and a fitting reward for one of the most genuine and deserving men in racing — Terry Casey.

own, cost him plenty of money. After that he thought about getting out of racing but answered an advert in the Sporting Life for someone to train for Jockey Club member Andrew Wates near Dorking, in Surrey.

Exeter (N.H.) runners and riders

- 2.10 Grandeur
2.40 Dancer
2.10 NIVER LOSSIE (cap)
4.40 Nordic Vain
5.10 Ocean

2.10 TUBAY AMATEUR RIDERS' NOVICE HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 101 026-130 BARBOLD (20) C Barrow 5-11-13
102 2-1000 PUMPERELL (19) G May 7-11-12
103 026-130 BARBOLD (20) C Barrow 5-11-13
104 026-130 BARBOLD (20) C Barrow 5-11-13

3.10 NORTH DEVONSHIRE AMATEUR RIDERS' NOVICE HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 301 27-140 NO PAIR NO GAIN (20) G 8-10-13
302 30-1000 CASTLE CREEK (20) M 11-13-14
303 10-1000 REVER LOSSIE (19) C 5-11-13
304 20-1000 ABANDON (19) M 11-13-14

Southwell all-weather Flat programme

- 3.50 Sherrinwood
3.50 Havelock Wood
3.50 Niles Ladner
3.50 Nivaler Aspecto
4.30 Fortner
4.50 Thelander

2.20 NORTH ANTIQUARIAN AMATEUR RIDERS' NOVICE HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0000-1 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 00-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 00-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

3.20 LANCASHIRE LIMITED GUARANTEED STAKES (7) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0000-1 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0000-1 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0000-1 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

Kelso jumping card with guide to the form

- 2.00 Balmorhall
2.30 Cool Weather
2.30 Razzleberry
4.00 Demoralisation
4.00 Sherrinwood
4.30 Royal Jester
4.00 Barmouth

2.00 PETER ALLAN NOVICE HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

2.30 GLENVIEW ENGLAND HALL NOVICE CHASE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

3.00 GRIMALD HANDBICAP HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

3.30 ROSS AND ROUND HANDBICAP HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

4.00 THE DOOGY HANDBICAP HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

4.30 CHARLIE BROWN SCOTTISH CHAMPION HURDLES CHASE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

5.00 CHEVY HANDBICAP HURDLE (20) 2m 2f 110yds CLASO

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

5.30 STAY AWAKE (18) (20) M 11-13-14

- 1 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
2 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13
3 0-1000 BILLY BARRY (18) J 5-11-13

Grand National placings

- 1. ROUGH QUEST, M A Fitzgerald (7-1)
2. Encore Un Pen (4-1)
3. Superior Finish (3-1)
4. Sir Peter Lely (3-1)

Hill a

Wiley

RACELINE 0930 1684 KELLO SOUTHWELL 103

صحنه من الاعمال

SportsGuardian

FA CUP SEMI-FINALS: YOU

Liverpool 3, Aston Villa 0

Fowler flourish finishes Villa

Martin Thorpe at Old Trafford

IT HAS been quite a week in quite a season for Robbie Fowler. Voted FA Young Player of the Year last Sunday, awarded his first England cap on Wednesday, the Toxteth Terrier topped off the lot with two goals yesterday to confirm Liverpool's renaissance as a major power and propel them into a mouth-watering final against Manchester United.

You'll Never Walk Alone rang out. Liverpool were back in the FA Cup final

first-half foul on him by Scales, and James prevented a second-half equaliser with an improbable reflex save.

Villa, behind after only 16 minutes, bounced back well and, led by the buzzing Draper, hustled and bussed the passing momentum out of the Liverpool midfield, especially after the interval, but just could not find the net.

Fowler struck again three minutes from time with a sumptuous volley, and McAteer added an unfair third in injury time.

There was no dishonour in Villa's defeat. Brian Little's achievement in turning last season's relegation contenders into Coca-Cola Cup winners, with its accompanying place in Europe, and possession of a Premiership top-four place has been one of the wonders of the season.

But they could not suppress another wonder of the season. Fowler, with his old head on young shoulders — he will be 21 next week — took his goal total to 33, five now against Villa in three games and at least one in every round of the Cup. Geoff Hurst will recognise the increasing irresistibility of Fowler's late run into the England reckoning for Euro '96.

Despite both sides playing the Continental sweeper system, it was the good old set piece which put Liverpool

McManaman on the left and Redknapp speared a cross into the Villa area. Fowler, stooping low, produced a diving header which rocketed the ball into the corner of Bosnich's goal. Again there was a touch of bad luck for Villa: Southgate had just come back on to the pitch after treatment to an injury and was slow in picking up the striker.

Five minutes later the England defender had to be substituted but Villa made light of the loss. They might have had a penalty when Taylor was sandwiched by McManaman and Scales, the latter stretching his leg across the midfielder's chest.

Then James made a brave block when Yorke, a yard out, got what had looked like a conclusive touch to Ekeogu's header. But then Villa's finishing let them down. Draper shot over, Milosevic shot wide, then was put through on James but allowed the keeper to shepherd him away.

After the interval Villa picked up the same script: Townsend, Draper and Taylor disrupting Liverpool's passing movements, Staunton fired over, then James made his wonder save. Milosevic's header finding Ekeogu a yard out but the keeper somehow managing to hold his shot.

If anything that was the turning point. Slowly, ominously, Liverpool came back into the game. Bosnich had to be quick to block Fowler's pounce on McGrath's under-hit back-pass, the 36-year-old veteran redeemed himself with a great tackle to thwart Collymore, who seconds later skewed another inviting chance wide.

Barnes already had his fourth FA Cup final in his sights when his sublime strike from 30 yards was touched on to the woodwork by Bosnich before, finally, the second goal came. Staunton headed out Redknapp's free-kick but only to Fowler, who teed up a volley and rifled it past Bosnich off the far post.

McManaman's run down the left set up an easy close-range third for McAteer and that was it. The Villa fans rightly offered their defeated heroes a chorus of thunderous applause as they trooped off, while a familiar and colourful sight was in full display in the magnificent new stand. The Gags swirled, the scarves stretched head-high. You'll Never Walk Alone rang out. Liverpool were back in the FA Cup final.

Wembley bound... Fowler milks the applause TOM JENKINS



Last touch... Cole forces home Cantona's header to bring United level at Villa Park yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BAPTON

Manchester United 2, Chelsea 1

United turn the tide red

Chelsea pay for defensive lapses

David Lacey at Villa Park

MANCHESTER United reached their 14th FA Cup final, and their third in successive seasons, yesterday after building their ramparts on sand. In the end they knew too much for Chelsea, but to a certain extent Glenn Hoddle's team beached themselves.

Having dominated large areas of the first half, on a ploughman's lurch of a pitch, Chelsea looked well worth the lead the head of Gullit had given them in the 34th minute. They were then undone by goals from Cole and Beckham in the space of six minutes early in the second half, the winner coming after a basic error by Burley.

One of the more entertaining FA Cup semi-finals owed nearly as much to the uncertainties in United's defence, and the injuries that subsequently weakened Chelsea at the back, as it did to the attacking excellence of both sides. Gullit was master of the first half, Cantona the second.

In the final of 1994 United had beaten Chelsea 4-0, again after being forced to chase the game before the interval. The shot from Peacock that rebounded from the crossbar had proved to be Chelsea's watershed that day. Yesterday's twist of plot was even more merciless because Gullit, scoring after Duberry had struck the bar, appeared to have laid that particular bogey.

Yet with United hitting post and bar before they scored, it was hard to make out a case for luck favouring either side. Strained muscles played more of a part.

Bruce, the United captain, was forced out with a thigh problem which meant that with Pallister already unfit, Alex Ferguson had to make some late adjustments. Gary Neville joined May at centre-back. Phil Neville switched from left-back to right, Sharpe went to left-back and Beckham came in on the right.

For more than half the match United's defenders performed like men who had learned the lines to a different

script. While they waited for prompts, Gullit kept popping up like the demon king. United could have lost the semi-final before half-time.

Eventually they won it while Phelan, having pulled up with a thigh strain five minutes into the second half, was trying to run off the injury. United's first goal was due directly to his inability to get back and cover.

By the time Peacock came on for Phelan, four minutes past the hour, Chelsea were 2-1 down. Having already lost Clarke, who had switched to right-back in place of the suspended Petrescu, with Myers joining Duberry and Lee in the middle, Hoddle's side ended up trying to save the game without the wisdom and speed on the flanks that have done so much to make them a better team.

The state of a heavily sanded pitch did not encourage flowing football but the quality of the passing, particularly from United, remained high. Keane, Butt and Giggs rarely wasted the ball. Cole again missed chances but remained hard-working and imaginative throughout, and Cantona's vision, along with his sense of time and space, eventually upstaged the genius of Gullit.

For a time, however, the Dutchman promised to inspire a famous Chelsea victory. Duberry had responded

to Giggs volleying Beckham's cross against a post in the fifth minute by hitting the underside of the United bar in the 15th. And four minutes past the half-hour Hughes overpowered Beckham and played a one-two with Spencer before centring beautifully from the left for Gullit to head in powerfully but easily at the far post.

Three minutes before half-time Cantona met a clearance from Lee with a first-time right-foot shot against the near post, enough to convince United that the afternoon might still be theirs. And so it was soon to prove. Nine minutes into the second half, with Phelan caught upfield, Beckham found Phil Neville on the

left and he slipped past Spencer before his cross was helped on towards the far post by Johnsen's attempted clearance. Cantona's header was aimed towards the top far corner of the net and Cole flung up a foot to deflect the ball over the line.

Five minutes later Chelsea were done for. Burley tried to volley the ball back to Hitchcock but had failed to spot Beckham stealing through in the inside-right position. Given a clear run at goal, Beckham kept his head and although his drive lacked power it was still beyond the reach of Hitchcock, who had thrown himself on to the wrong foot by anticipating a shot inside the near post.

Two minutes later Spencer's well-struck shot beat the stretching Schmeichel but Cantona was behind the goalkeeper to head the ball off the line. "I've never seen him so deep," said Ferguson, adding: "We were the better team and deserved to go through."

In the end perhaps, but there will be few better chances of seeing Ruud Gullit in an FA Cup final. Again Wembley will have to settle for Eric Cantona.

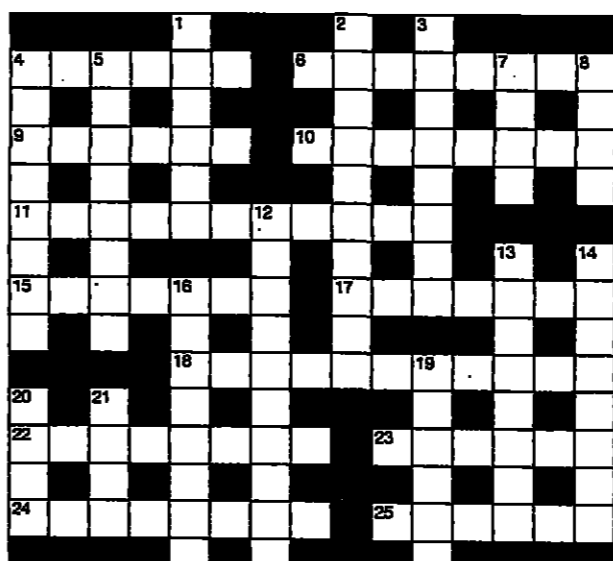
Manchester United: Schmeichel, P. Neville, G. Neville, May, Sharpe, Beckham, Butt, Keane, Giggs, Cole, Cantona. Chelsea: Hitchcock, Duberry, Lee, (Ferguson, 87min), Myers, Clarke (Johnson, 38), Burley, Gullit, Wiso, Phelan (Peacock, 61), Spencer, Hughes. Referee: S. Lodge (Barnsley)

More soccer, page 14

Guardian Crossword No 20,615

Set by Janus

22 Start! Then call our solutions line on 0800 4 555 222. Calls cost 39p per min, cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by AT5.



Across

- 4 One may get it for a pound! (6)
- 6 Theoretical sailor's region (8)
- 9 Trap set on board to catch fish (6)
- 10 Plush words about border-flower (8)
- 11 Take for one's own if suitable (11)
- 15 Did she choose the right one? (7)
- 17 Fish supporter in a perfect world (7)
- 18 Compromise musicians often make (11)
- 22 Model knocking work of hurter (8)
- 23 Hopeless horse must trouble the queen (6)
- 24 He might pray to find one in church (8)

Down

- 1 Fate the clergy love to follow (6)
- 2 Deviation from miserably bare allowance (10)
- 3 A politician caught in wild steed's mad rush (8)
- 4 Spend a long time in corridors (8)
- 5 Fought, then thrown aside (8)
- 7 Thus parent aspired to be a prophet (4)
- 8 Are they worn because of obligations? (4)
- 12 Settles again in the back rows (10)
- 13 Councillor planting tree on island (8)
- 14 Tries Hay diet in emotional state (8)

- 16 He says nothing about very quiet drag-art! (8)
- 19 Once disastrously lost in praises (6)
- 20 Way to measure dam (4)
- 21 Flaw never seen in fine linen (4)

Solution tomorrow

Hill flawless in the rain

DAMON HILL was never headed on his way to a commanding 17sec win in the Brazilian Grand Prix yesterday which gave him a perfect score of 20 in the drivers' championship after starting the Formula One season with victory in Melbourne. The Briton dominated the race from pole position after a downpour hit the In-

terlagos circuit in Sao Paulo shortly before the start. Forcing his opponents to ride in his spray for much of the 73-lap race, the Williams driver gave a flawless display to come in clear of the Frenchman Jean Alesi's Benetton. The double world champion Michael Schumacher gave Ferrari a fillip with third place, his first points

for the Italian team. Hill's team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, an unlucky second on his debut in Australia, fell victim to the rain. Having attacked boldly from third on the grid and almost overtaking Hill, the Canadian spun off while duelling with Alesi on lap 27.

Alan Henry, page 13

Windows are just sheets of glass set directly into the ground with no superfluous frames. Floors are made in the most simple, uncomplicated way from broad planks of wood, laid if possible in continuous strips to eliminate the joints. Even the nails are hidden.

John Pawson

G2 page 12

صوتك من الاجل

America new civi

Police w

S

Britain's

B

Inside